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THE HINDU

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FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2022

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
Vol. 53 • No. 167
22 pages • ₹6.00

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Road built with 100% recycled plastic waste

BENGALURU

A new concrete road connecting RMZ Ecoworld and the ORR to ease the traffic congestion in the area has been built entirely from 100% recycled plastic.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 2

'Sleep pattern has changed post COVID'

BENGALURU

Among the various post COVID complications that people have been complaining about, sleep disturbances and changes in sleep pattern are common.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Agree with HC remark on PSI recruitment scam

BENGALURU

The State Public Prosecutor on Thursday told the High Court of Karnataka that the CID completely agrees with the remarks made by the court that the PSI recruitment scam is nothing but "an act of terror on society and an instance of fence eating the crop."

KARNATAKA ▸ PAGE 8

METROPLUS ▸ PAGE 7

Gotabaya in Singapore, sends in his resignation

Official announcement today after verifying its authenticity

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa on Thursday sent his resignation letter by email from Singapore, the Parliamentary Speaker's office said, deferring an official announcement to Friday in order to verify the "authenticity and legality" of the document.

The development came a day after Mr. Gotabaya, who rose to power in 2019 on a thumping election win, fled the country and sought refuge on two other islands, as mass anti-government protests rapidly escalated last weekend. Early on Wednesday, he was flown to the Maldives by a Sri Lankan military aircraft. He reached Singapore on Thursday evening, the country's Foreign Ministry confirmed.

Mr. Gotabaya was allowed entry into Singapore "on a private visit", the city-state's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. "He has not asked for asylum and neither has he been granted any asylum," the Ministry said.

All aboard: People in Colombo celebrating Gotabaya Rajapaksa's resignation. •REUTERS

Parliament will not be convened on Friday as was announced, Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena's office said, owing to the delay in the receipt of the President's resignation letter.

Once accepted, Mr. Gotabaya's resignation would signal a resounding victory to the citizen's protests, demanding "Gota go home", taking responsibility for the country's worst economic downturn since Independence in 1948. Mr. Gotabaya was forced to flee and quit, after protesters stormed his office and home on Saturday, as a deepening crisis left citizens scrambling for essentials, amid acute shortages and hyperinflation.

For nearly 100 days, demonstrators have camped out in a tent city adjacent to the Presidential Secretariat, along Colombo's seafront Galle Face.

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FLEEING, QUITTING ▸ PAGE 10
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SRI LANKA CRISIS ▸ PAGE 15

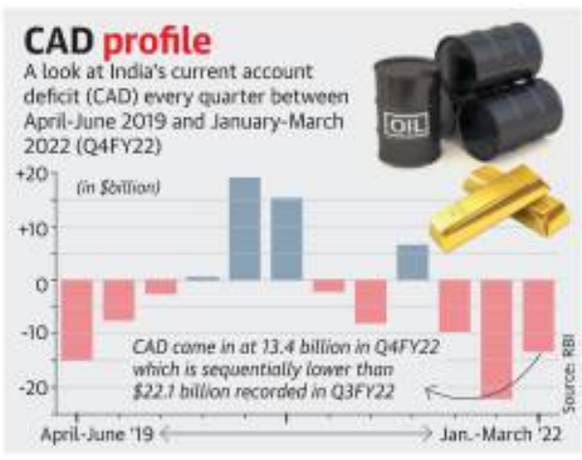
'Fiscal deficit reined in, CAD a concern'

Inflation, trade deficit are key challenges: FinMin

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

India's macro risks have receded in recent weeks and concerns about the fiscal deficit target being breached may be misplaced, the Finance Ministry asserted on Thursday, while conceding that the current account deficit (CAD) could, however, deteriorate this year mainly due to rising trade deficits.

Identifying elevated inflation and a widening trade deficit as 'twin challenges' for the economy, the Ministry, however, emphasised that economic activity in the country remained resilient almost five months into the Russian-Ukraine conflict.



Data released separately on Thursday showed the trade deficit widened in June to an all-time high of $26.2 billion as imports surged past $66 billion. Retail inflation eased slightly to 7.01% in June, and the Ministry attributed it to measures taken by the government and the central bank as well as fears of a global recession that had dragged oil prices lower.

The government would still need to 'continue to walk the tightrope of balancing inflation and growth concerns' as long as price gains remain above the 6% mark, the Ministry said in its monthly economic review.

"Softening of global commodity prices may put a leash on inflation, but their elevated levels also need to decline quickly to reduce India's CAD," it noted.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

Kerala reports India's first monkeypox case

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The first known lab-confirmed case of monkeypox in India has been reported in a 35-year-old man in Kerala, who reached the State capital three days ago from the UAE. The Union Health Ministry should now make the official declaration.

State Health Minister Veena George, who earlier on Thursday informed pressmen about a possible suspected case of monkeypox, said here at 7 p.m. that the National Institute of Virology, Pune had confirmed the disease.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

JMM formally offers support to Murmu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) on Thursday officially announced its support for Droupadi Murmu, the Presidential candidate of the National Democratic Alliance. The election will be held on Monday. "It is for the first time after Independence that an Adivasi woman will be getting a chance to become President of India. Therefore, our party has decided to vote in favour of Droupadi Murmu," said a letter issued by JMM president Shibu Soren to the party MPs and MLAs.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 12

CET document verification to go online from this year

KEA to launch special software that will enable CET rank holders to get documents verified online

JAYANTH R.
BENGALURU

Common Entrance Test (CET) rank holders can get their documents verified online from this year. The Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) is planning the online document verification system from the 2022-23 academic year, and is launching a special software for the purpose. This would ensure that students and parents need not head to the KEA head office at Bengaluru and other district centres for physical verification.

CET, the gateway to professional courses, such as engineering, BSc (agriculture) and others, was held between June 16 to 18 and the KEA is planning to declare the results soon.

Other processes of the CET, such as application and payment, are already online. But for document verification, students had to be physically present at the centres, and the process would sometimes take long hours. This was especially a problem for students in rural areas, who would have trouble reaching the centres which were often far off.

A file photo of students and their parents waiting for document verification at a CET centre in Bengaluru.

S. Ramya, Executive Director of KEA, told *The Hindu*, "From the academic year 2022-23, we are launching the CET document online verification system. KEA has developed a special software for this purpose. This year onwards, students need not to come to the KEA or any other district document verification centres for CET document verification. We will also launch the SMS gateway system and send the SMS to the student's registered mobile phone regarding missing documents."

How it will work

The KEA is conducting counselling, which includes online registration and document verification, among other processes. While registering online, students would have already claimed the special category reservation in the online application along with the RD number of that particular certificate and other details.

Now, instead of having to go to the centres, KEA will verify the caste, income and other reservation certificates with the revenue department on the basis of the RD numbers of the particular document in the online application. Students should have been presented special category certificates like seven-year study certificate, Kannada medium certificate, rural certificate duly signed by the authorities concerned.

The KEA has provided the digital signature key, login and password to the BEOs and DDPI. If students have applied for the special category certificates, the BEO or DDPI concerned will send the student's certificates to the KEA online, officials said.

The KEA will obtain the Class 10 and II PU marks cards directly from the SSLC board and the Department of Pre-university Education and other boards.

For all other students who have passed II PU/ 12th standard before 2022 and those who are appearing for 2022 12th standard examinations such as CBSE, CISCE (10+2) from other boards, including Jammu and Kashmir in 2022, marks details will be verified on the basis of the photocopies of the marks card submitted through the online application.

But students who claim reservation under Defence, Ex-defence, Central armed police force and Ex-central armed police forces should visit KEA for physical document verification with original documents.

SMS gateway

KEA will also launching the 'SMS Gateway' system. In case any documents are miss matched with the online application, they will send an SMS about the necessary documents. Students will be given one or two opportunities to reload the documents or exact RD number.

In case the students fail or face technical glitches, they should directly visit the KEA head office and get a proper solution, officials said.

Final notification of 243 delimited BBMP wards out

The new wards have an average population of 34,700

The draft received 3,833 objections, a majority of them on names of wards. A sub-committee led by Special Commissioner Deepak R.L. looked into all the objections and submitted a report to the State government.

TUSHAR GIRI NATH
Chief Civic Commissioner

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Urban Development Department has notified the final notification of the delimited 243 wards of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) on Thursday night.

The UDD had notified a draft of delimited wards on June 23, increasing the number of wards from 198 to 243, and had given 15 days time to file objections. While the earlier wards had huge disparity with a population in the range of 28,000 to 1 lakh, the new wards have an average population of 34,700. However, the delimitation exercise has come under criticism for being outdated on arrival as it is based on the 2011 Census.

The draft received 3,833 objections, a majority of them on names of wards, said Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath. "A sub-committee led by Special Commissioner Deepak R.L. looked into all the objections and submitted a report to the State government, which has now notified the final delimitation of wards," he said.

Eight-week deadline

The government has been working to keep the eight weeks commitment it gave to the Supreme Court to complete delimitation of wards and fixing the reservation roster to hold the much delayed civic polls. Supreme Court had set an eight-week deadline on May 20 and seven weeks are already over. Justice Bhaktavatsalam Committee studying OBC representation is also likely submit its report to the government soon, sources said.

However, sources said the MLAs of the city, cutting across party lines, are not keen to hold civic polls so close to the Assembly polls scheduled for April-May 2023, and are looking at ways to derail the polls. Opposition Congress has termed the delimitation politically biased to BJP and has threatened to challenge the delimitation legally if their objections are not factored in and suitable corrections made.

RELATED REPORT ▸ PAGE 2

Inscription digitisation project throws light on city's history

43 hitherto undocumented inscriptions unearthed

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

Bellandur lake is most often in the news for the toxic froth that floats over it, thanks to pollutants from the burgeoning metroplis flowing into it. But did you know that this once-pristine lake is at least 1,300 years old?

A Durga idol found in the temple on its bank is testimony to its antiquity, as the worship of Durga beside a lake is a Ganga period practice (5th to 10th century CE).

These are among the finds of the ongoing 3D digitisation project of inscriptions taken up by The Mythic Society. The project has unearthed 43 hitherto undocumented inscriptions, throwing fresh light on the culture and ethos of the city. Of the 43, as many as 22 have been found in Bengaluru while the rest have been identified in Anekal, Hoskote and Magadi taluks surrounding the city.

But on the flip side, the project also found that out of the 175 inscriptions recorded in the city by the *Epigraphia Carnatica* in 1905, only 110 could be identified in locations mentioned in the publication. Apathy, ignorance and rapid urban expansion have contributed to the loss of many inscriptions, lost to formation of layouts, road widening and big infrastructure projects that have, literally, bulldozed local markers of heritage.

However, project director (Hon) P.L. Udaya Kumar sees a ray of hope in public enthusiasm to know their hyperlocal histories. He told *The Hindu* that there have been several heartening instances of locals pitching in to save their local heritage.

FULL REPORT ▸ PAGE 6

People get two-and-a-half hours extra at parks

Civic activists had been demanding that the public must be allowed to access parks all day

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The city's civic body has expanded the time window when people can access public parks in the city by two-and-a-half hours. Parks will now be accessible from 1.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., instead of 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the second half of the day.

Earlier, the city's civic body had restricted access to parks from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Several civic activists and Residents' Welfare Associations (RWAs) had been demanding that the public must be allowed to access parks throughout the day.

Parks will now be accessible from 1.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., instead of 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the second half of the day. • FILE PHOTO

Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath issued an order on Thursday expanding the time window. The order says parks will be accessible from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., but adds that a three-and-a-half hour time window from 10 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. will be reserved for park maintenance and during this window, the public will not be allowed to access the parks. Thus, effectively, the parks will now be accessible to the public from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 1.30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Green activist Vinay Sreenivasa, while welcoming the expansion of the time window, said they failed to understand why the civic body needs to bar the public while maintaining the park and demanded the parks be accessible throughout the daym.

However, Mr. Giri Nath said allowing the public during park maintenance earlier had created issues with people quarreling with the staffers over water falling on them and other such issues. "We have expanded the time window to the maximum we can," he said.

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Dip in party donations

41.49 In %, the decrease in the donations that recognised national parties received during financial year 2020-21 from the previous fiscal, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). Donations to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) decreased from ₹785.77 crore during FY 2019-20 to ₹477.54 crore during FY 2020-21. Meanwhile, the donations received by the Congress plunged from ₹139 crore during FY 2019-20 to ₹74.524 crore during FY 2020-21. PTI

Growth in exports

23.52 In %, the growth in merchandise exports in India in June to $40.13 billion, while the trade deficit ballooned to a record $26.18 billion, according to government data released on Thursday. Imports expanded by 57.5% to $66.31 billion in June compared to the year-ago month, the data showed. Cumulative exports in April-June, 2022-23 rose by about 24.51% to $118.96 billion, while imports increased by 49.47% to $189.76 billion during the period. PTI

Flood relief camps

19,071 The number of people shifted to 233 relief camps across Telangana as rains continued to pound several parts of the State, leading to the inundation of low-lying areas. During a meeting held to assess the situation due to incessant rains, Chief Secretary Somesh Kumar said things were under control and no major damage was reported. While 6,300 families have been sent to camps in Bhadradri-Kothagudem district, 4,049 people were sent to camps in Mulugu. PTI

WPI inflation

15.18 In %, the wholesale price-based inflation in June, a three-month low due to a sharp decline in the prices of minerals, but food articles continued to remain costly. June is the 15th consecutive month where the wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation remained in double-digit. Last month, it touched a record high of 15.88%. The WPI inflation in minerals dropped sharply to 8.55% in June from 33.94% in May. In June 2021, it was 12.07%. Inflation in food articles in June was 14.39%. PTI

Investing in food parks

2 In $ billion, the amount to be invested by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to develop food parks in India to tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the west Asia, according to a joint statement released by the UAE, India, Israel and the United States on Thursday. The parks will incorporate advanced climate technology to help maximise crop yields. The statement added that the U.S. and Israeli private sector companies would be invited to lend their expertise and offer solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the project. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

The debate around the Forest Conservation Rules

What are the Forest Conservation Rules and how will it affect forest dwellers and tribals? What is the government's position on the updated rules?

THE GIST

- Forest Conservation Rules prescribe the procedure to be followed for forest land to be diverted for non-forestry uses such as road construction, and highway development.
- The latest version of the rules, which consolidates changes to the Act over the years from various amendments and court ruling, was made public on June 28, 2022.
- Prior to the updated rules, state bodies would forward documents to the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) that would include information on the status of whether the forest rights of locals in the area were settled.

JACOB KOSHY

The story so far: The Congress and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sparred earlier this week on the latest version of the Forest Conservation Rules. Congress spokesperson, Jairam Ramesh, alleged that the latest version of the rules, updated last month, allowed forest land to be diverted to industry without settling questions of the rights of forest dwellers and tribals who resided on those lands. The Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupender Yadav and Tribal Affairs Minister, Arjun Munda, denied these claims.

What are the Forest Conservation Rules?

The Forest Conservation Rules deal with the implementation of the Forest Conservation Act (FCA), 1980. They prescribe the procedure to be followed for forest land to be diverted for non-forestry uses such as road construction, highway development, railway lines, and mining.

After 2009, the Environment Ministry passed an order mandating that proposals would not be entertained by the FAC unless there was a letter from the State specifying that the forest rights in the place had been "settled"

The broad aims of the Forest Conservation Act are to protect forest and wildlife, put brakes on State governments' attempts to hive off forest land for commercial projects and striving to increase the area under forests.

For forest land beyond five hectares, approval for diverting land must be given by the Central government. This is via a specially constituted committee, called the Forest Advisory Committee (FAC).

This committee examines whether the user agency, or those who have requested forest land, have made a convincing case for the upheaval of that specific parcel of land, whether they have a plan in place to ensure that the ensuing damage – from felling of trees in that area, denuding the local landscape – will be minimal and the said piece of land doesn't cause damage to wildlife habitat.

Once the FAC is convinced and approves (or rejects a proposal), it is forwarded to the concerned State government where the land is located, who then has to ensure that provisions of the Forest Right Act, 2006, a separate Act that protects the rights of forest dwellers and tribals over their land, are complied with.

The FAC approval also means that the future users of the land must provide compensatory land for afforestation as well as pay the net present value (ranging between ₹10-15 lakh per hectare.)

What do the updated rules say?

The latest version of the rules, which consolidates changes to the Act over the years from various amendments and court ruling, was made public on June 28, 2022.

Parliament is scheduled to begin its monsoon session on July 18, 2022 and the law requires that the rules be placed before both the Houses. The new rules, according to the Centre, "streamline" the process of approvals. The rules make a provision for private parties to cultivate plantations and sell them as land to companies who need to meet compensatory forestation targets.

This, according to the government, will help India increase forest cover as well as solve the problems of the States of not finding land within their jurisdiction for compensatory purposes. While this has invited its own controversy, the latest point of contention is the absence of wording, in the updated Forest Conservation Rules, of what happens to tribals and forest-dwelling communities whose land would be hived off for developmental work.

Prior to the updated rules, state bodies would forward documents to the FAC that would also include information on the status of whether the forest rights of locals in the area were settled.

After 2009, the Environment Ministry passed an order mandating that proposals would not be entertained by the FAC unless there was a letter from the State specifying that the forest rights in the place had been "settled" and the gram sabha, or the governing body in villages in the area, had given their written consent to the diversion of forest.

However, there have been a series of orders by the Environment Ministry over the years, and frequently opposed by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, that have sought to skirt the necessity for consent from the gram sabha.

The new rules formally codify this and say that a project, once approved by the FAC, will then be passed on to the State authorities who will collect the compensatory fund and land, and process it for final approval.

Only in passing, is it mentioned that the States will ensure "settlement" of Forest Rights Acts applicable. This, many forestry experts say, doesn't automatically imply the consent of the resident tribals and forest dwellers.

What is the government's position?

Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav rebutted Mr. Ramesh underlining that fulfilling and complying with the FRA, 2006 was an independent process and could be undertaken by States "at any stage" of the forest clearance process and that complying with provisions of the FRA is mentioned in the rules before States order diversion of the land. However, he said, it had to be completed before granting approval for land diversion.

The purpose of updating these rules, said Mr. Yadav, was to "streamline the approval process."

Initial steps: The purpose of updating the rules was to "streamline the approval process." • GETTY IMAGES

How well has the Forest Conservation Act (FCA) been implemented so far?

A 2019 analysis by the Legal Initiative for Forests and Environment has found that the FAC generally approves land for diversion without examining questions around consent as it relies on the State government to ensure that this is done.

In the first six months of 2019, of the 240 proposals that were considered for diversion of forest land for non-forestry purposes, 193 proposals were recommended, 40 proposals were deferred for later consideration and seven rejected. Recommendation for 193 proposals meant 9,220.64 hectares of forest land were recommended for diversion for non-forestry purposes such as roads, railways, mining, irrigation, infrastructure and hydel power.

EXPLAINER

The road to rolling out labour codes

What are the reasons for the delay in implementing the four labour codes? Why are the central trade unions against the move?

A. M. JIGEESH

The story so far: The Code on Wages (passed in Parliament in August, 2019), the Industrial Relations Code, the Code on Social Security, and the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (all passed on September 22 and 23, 2020 in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha) have not yet been implemented. The Centre claims that the four codes are a major step in the process of labour reforms. The central trade unions (CTUs) have held three general strikes against the codes so far, alleging that the codes will result in taking away whatever little social and economic security is left in the employment sector. The farmers' organisations had also supported the trade unions in their protests. The employers' associations, too, had mixed feeling towards the codes, but had generally welcomed them.

Where does it stand?

The government says the delay in implementation is due to the delay in framing rules by the States. As labour is a concurrent subject, both the States and the Centre will have to prepare rules for the codes. The Centre had also offered help to the States so that the codes can be implemented from July 1, 2022.

Union Minister for Labour, Bhupender Yadav, recently said that only a few States have not yet framed the rules. According to a recent report, 24 States have so far published draft rules to all four codes.

What is the process?

The States are publishing draft rules and inviting comments from stakeholders on those draft rules. The Centre had also published draft rules for certain sections of the four codes. The trade unions have been asking the Centre to stop this piecemeal approach and release the complete rules of four codes.

Since the four labour codes are an amalgamation of 29 Central laws and about 100 State laws that are similar to various Central laws, drafting, publishing and holding consultations with stakeholders is taking considerable time. There are also complaints by the Opposition-ruled States that the codes are "poorly drafted".

The Opposition had objected to the way the three codes were passed in Parliament in just two days without much discussion. Recently, Kerala Labour Minister V. Sivankutti said in the Kerala Assembly that the State prepared the draft rules hesitantly as most of the provisions in the codes are "anti-worker."

The Centre intends to implement the

four codes together. "Our effort will be to implement the codes in 2022. The Labour Minister has offered discussions with trade unions and representatives of employers to iron out differences, if any," an official said.

The SP Mukherjee committee, which is working towards the issue of minimum wages, is yet to complete its task. Setting a national minimum wage is important in the implementation of the Code on Wages. The Centre had recently said that the ambit of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) will be expanded to all districts within two years.

Social security for unorganised workers is a promise in the Code on Social Security and expansion of ESIC network is an unavoidable step for this purpose.

What are some of the concerns?

The central trade unions in the Opposition camp are opposed to all the four codes. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)-supported trade union, Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS), is opposed to the Industrial Relations Code and certain provisions of the Code on Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions.

According to the Centre of Indian Trade Unions, one of the central trade unions said the exercise "is aimed at pushing out a large section of the workforce out of the coverage of all labour laws through increasing the threshold level of employment in an establishment and repealing of a big number of labour laws meant for certain specific sections of employees/workers viz., sales promotion employees, working journalists, etc."

The BMS has been maintaining that the codes should not be implemented at one go. "The differences must be resolved by mutual dialogue. We have our concerns about the code on Industrial Relations, specifically on the provisions for the registration and working of central trade unions. Our advice to the government is that it should implement only those sections and codes where there is a larger unanimity among the workers, employers and the government," said BMS general secretary Binoy Kumar Sinha.

The employers' associations like Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) had expressed reservation on the proposal for increasing the minimum wages and expanding the social security network by involving the employers too.

What lies ahead?

The trade unions are warning about more protests if the codes are implemented. They say that the Centre will have to repeal it the way it repealed the three farm laws.

The Centre, too, is worried about the political fallout of its implementation and thus, this could also be a possible reason for the delay. The employers are worried that further increase in the salary bill will hamper their profits in a recession-hit economy and they expect the government to hold more discussions.

THE GIST

- The government says the delay in implementing the four labour codes is due to the delay in framing rules by the States.
- The States are publishing draft rules and inviting comments from stakeholders on those draft rules. The Centre had also published draft rules for certain sections of the four codes.
- The trade unions are warning about protests if the codes are implemented. They say that the Centre will have to repeal it the way it repealed the three farm laws.

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Road built with 100% recycled plastic waste to ease traffic congestion

It connects RMZ Ecoworld to ORR

The project has been undertaken under a partnership between the BBMP, PotHoleRaja, and ORR companies.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

What is better than a smooth, pothole-free road? One that has put plastic waste to good use. A new concrete road connecting RMZ Ecoworld and the Outer Ring Road (ORR) to ease the traffic congestion in the area has been built entirely from 100% recycled plastic.

The project, undertaken under a partnership between the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), PotHoleRaja, a social venture, and ORR companies, has been constructed using what is touted as a first-of-its-kind solution by PotHoleRaja called 'GridMats'. This, explained the company in a release, is a patented product that is eco-friendly, durable and crafted entirely from 100% recycled plastic waste to construct pavements and roads.

"Made from recycled polypropylene, GridMats are placed above the bedding layer and packed with different filling options, creating a permanent, flat, high-quality surface in less than half the time, and at 20% to 25% cheaper the cost," explained the release.

Commenting on the project, Sourabh Kumar, director, PotHoleRaja, said: "Currently, commuters exiting Ecoworld to go towards Marathahalli have to take a U-turn at Bellandur and the ones who are entering Ecoworld from ORR face a lot of inconvenience due to the traffic pile up in the area. This pile up is primarily due to commuters having to take a U-turn in a congested junction. A well-designed connecting road directly to Ecoworld will cut down on commuting time to a great extent."

Mr. Sourabh said around 3,000 kg of plastic waste was used in building the road. "It consumes 30% less water than traditional concrete road and it does not require any steel reinforcement. Traditional concrete road technology would have emitted 46.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions to complete this construction. However, GridMats produce only 11.9 tonnes–a significant reduction when compared to the conventional method. We have cut down on close to 34.6 tonnes of CO_2e (Carbon Dioxide equivalent emissions) which is the equivalent of emissions produced by driving a car for 1,38,600 km," he added.

'Most objections to ward delimitation draft on names'

Highest number of objections from Yeshwantpur Assembly constituency, says BBMP Chief Commissioner

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Most of the objections filed over the draft of the ward delimitation in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) pertains to naming of wards, said chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

The Urban Development Department had notified the draft of the delimitation of wards - increased from 198 to 243 - on June 23 and gave 15 days' time till July 8 to file objections. The department has received 3,833 objections, a majority of them over naming of wards. The most number of objections have come from Yeshwantpur Assembly constituency - 1,967 objections, of which over 1,700 are regarding naming of wards. K.R. Puram Assembly constituency has sent the second highest number of objections - 479, a majority of which are regarding ward names.

The Urban Development Department had notified the draft of delimitation of wards, increased from 198 to 243, on June 23.

"A large ward has been divided into multiple wards and to which ward should we give the original name is something that seems to have animated many. There are objections to the names of new wards created, some named after historical personalities," Mr. Giri Nath said. The draft of the ward delimitation has proposed to name wards after several historical personalities including Dr. Rajkumar, Veera Madakari, Kanneshwara Rama, and Chanakya among others.

'Unscientific'

The chief civic commissioner said there were a few objections claiming the delimitation of their ward was unscientific - that their pocket had been separated by a highway, lake, and wanted to be included in a ward that is easier to access for them. The Supreme Court has set a eight-week deadline on May 20 for ward delimitation and fixing the reservation roster for wards in the BBMP to be completed, for the civic polls to be held.

Meanwhile, Congress leader Ramalinga Reddy told *The Hindu* that they would wait for the final notification of the ward delimitation and if their objections have not been taken into account and rectified they will be forced to challenge it legally.

'Political exercise'

"The delimitation exercise has been carried out by the RSS and the BJP to help them politically and it has not been a people-centric exercise. If this is not corrected in the final notification, we will take the legal recourse," he said.

Fish kill at Panathur lake

At least five instances reported in a week

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

At least five fish kill incidents have been reported in the last week in Panathur lake, according to the local residents. Although the cause still remains unknown, the lake volunteers have raised the issue to the Department of Fisheries, along with BBMP officials.

"There is no proper fencing around the lake, and no good filtration system for drainage water inflow. There are a host of other problems and it is difficult to determine the cause," said Kaveri, a volunteer.

Earlier this week, a report by ActionAid had said that eight fish kills were recorded in the city this year making it the highest ever in the city in recent years. The recent incidents at Panathur lake takes the number to nine.

Volunteers have alerted those living nearby and the security staff to increase surveillance at the lake after some locals alleged that there might be foul play involved.

BMTC e-bus hits electricity pole on Magadi road

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Around five passengers ravelling in a BMTC electric bus (e-bus) escaped narrowly when the driver lost control and rammed into a roadside electricity pole near MC Junction on Magadi road on Thursday.

The bus was heading to Vijayanagar from Yeshwantpur when the incident occurred around 10.45 a.m. The driver of the bus, identified as Prashanth, who was working on contract basis, told the police that the accident was due to a technical snag.

The brakes did not work due to the wet surface, causing the bus to slide on the footpath and collide with the pole, he said.

GOVERNMENT OF JHARKHAND
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
DRINKING WATER & SANITATION DIVISION, PAKUR.

Very Short E-Procurement Notice (2nd Call)

E-Tender Notice Reference no- 16 /DWSD/PKR/2022-23 Dated : 14.07.2022

1	Name of the Department	Drinking Water and Sanitation Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi.
2	Date of publication of Tender on Web site	15.07.2022/ 01.00 P.M
3	Date of Pre-bid Meeting	19.07.2022 at 12.30 PM in the Office of Engineer-in-Chief, D. W. &S Department, Jharkhand, Ranchi
4	Last date /Time for receipt of Bid	22.07.2022/ 03.00 PM
5	Last date /Time for receipt of E.M. Cost & B.O.Q. Cost	23.07.2022/2.00 PM 1. Office of the Executive Engineer, D.W. & S. Division, Pakur. 2. Office of the Superintending Engineer, D.W. & S. Dumka Circle, Dumka 3. Office of the Zonal Chief Engineer, DWSD, Dumka Zone, Dumka
6	Date of Opening of Tender	26.1 23.07.2022/ 03.30 P.M
7	Name & address of office inviting tender	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Pakur, Jharkhand.
8	Name & address of Opening Officer	Executive Engineer, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Division, Pakur.
9	Contact no of Procurement office	9110073326
10	Helpline no. of e-procurement Cell	0651-2480345
11	Construction of Solar Based Mini Water Supply Scheme (SVS) in Maheshpur Block, comprising of suitable R.C.C./Framed structure ESR, Distribution Lines, Source (as required) , FHTC & 5 years Operation and Maintenance all complete job in the Pakur District "On Turnkey Basis" Under DW&S Division, Pakur for the year 2022-23.	

Sl. No	Group No	Block	No of Panchayat	No of Village	No of Scheme	Estimated Cost (In Lac.)	Earnest money (In Lac.)	Cost of BOQ (In Rs.)	Time of Completion
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	SVS/CLUSTER-1(B)	Maheshpur	07	08	93	877.66260	8.78	10000.00	9 Months

- Estimated Cost & EMD Cost may vary.
- Further details can be seen on website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

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Executive Engineer
DW&S Division, Pakur

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58.
Ph: 080-28094186, 28094541 Fax: 080-28094180.

CORRIGENDUM-II Dated: 14.07.2022

On behalf of President of India, sealed item rate e-tender is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for following works in NIT by Group Head, ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58. (Ph: 2809 4541).

Name of work	**Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2x200 Kva UPS Systems at 18mtr Antenna buildings IDSN campus, ISTRAC, Byalalu, Bengaluru.**	**Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 2x100 Kva UPS Systems at 32mtr Antenna buildings IDSN campus, ISTRAC, Byalalu, Bengaluru.**
e-tenders notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/CON/ETN-09/2022-2023 dated: 10.06.2022**	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/CON/ETN-12/2022-2023 dated: 10.06.2022**
Estimated Cost put at tender	**Rs. 45.29 lakhs**	**Rs. 33.37 lakhs**
Tender Document details	**e-Tenders**	**e-Tenders**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**03 months**	**03 months**
Period during which tender documents can be downloaded	From 14.06.2022 to 28.06.2022 till 16.00 hrs. **Extended up to 25.07.2022 till 16.00 hrs**	
Bid clarifications	From 15.06.2022 to 29.06.2022 till 16.00 hrs. Extended up to 04.07.2022 till 16.00 hrs **Further Extended up to 26.07.2022 till 16.00 hrs.**	
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification	30.06.2022 up to 16.00 hrs. Extended up to 05.07.2022 till 16.00 hrs **Further Extended up to 28.07.2022 till 16.00 hrs.**	
Last date & time for receipt of tenders	01.07.2022 up to 16.00 hrs. Extended up to 08.07.2022 till 16.00 hrs **Further Extended up to 29.07.2022 till 16.00 hrs.**	
Due date & time of opening of tenders	05.07.2022 after 11.00 hrs. Extended up to 13.07.2022 till 11.00 hrs **Further Extended up to 01.08.2022 till 11.00 hrs.**	
EMD	**Rs. 90,580.00**	**Rs. 66,740.00**

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender document from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head-CMG

BEFORE THE HON'BLE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-I FOR KARNATAKA, JEEVAN MANGAL BUILDING, NO. 4 RESIDENCY ROAD, BENGALURU
Diary No. 1612 of 2020
Cookson India Private Limited
....APPLICANT
AND:
1.Karnataka State Co-operative Apex Bank Limited : ... **Respondent No. 1**
2.M/s Vaishnavi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises Private Limited: **Respondent No.2**
3. Mr.Sri.N.Sreenivasa .. **Respondent No. 3**
SUMMONS UNDER RULE23 (VIII) OF THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 TO RESPONDENT NO. 2 AND RESPONDENT NO. 3 BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION

To,
Respondent No. 2 - **Vaishnavi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Private Limited**
43/1, Turnour Road,
Adjacent to Union Bank of India,
Yeshwanthapur, Bangalore 560022
Respondent No. 3 - **N. Sreenivasa**
Managing Director of Vaishnavi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprise Private Limited
No. 208, 2nd Main, Mahalakshmi Layout
Bengaluru - 560086

WHEREAS the above-named Applicant has instituted the application (**Application**) U/S 17 of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (**SARFAESI Act**)for (a)recognition of the Applicant's right as a lessee of the Schedule Property and permission for the Applicant to continue its uninterrupted use and occupation of the Schedule Property and (b)to set aside the public notice dated 3 February 2020 issued under Section 13(4) of the SARFAESI Act to the extent of the Applicant'slease rights and ensure that none of the Defendant No. 1's future actions will adversely impact the Applicant's right to continuous and uninterrupted use and access to the Schedule Property.
You are hereby required **to show cause within 30 days of the publication of the summons on or before 20th September 2022 at 10.30 a.m.** as to why the reliefs prayed should not be granted.
Take Notice that, in case of default of appearance, on the day mentioned hereinabove, the proceedings will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on the 12th day of July 2022 at Bengaluru.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
PART A
(DESCRIPTION OF THE PLOT)
All that piece and parcel of the Industrial Property bearing Municipal No. 89/1, Industrial Suburb, Second Stage, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore - 560022, lying within and forming part of Industrial Site No. 89, measuring East to West on Southern side: 148 feet and on the Northern side: 154 Feet; and South to North 130 feet admeasuring 19,630 Sq. Ft., and within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike and having PID No.11 - 53 - 89/1 and bounded on:
East by : 1st 'A' Main Road
West by : Property belonging to Mr. K. A. Jeevan Kumar
North by : Property bearing No. 90
South by : Property bearing No. 88
PART B
(DESCRIPTION OF THE DEMISED PREMISES)
ALL THAT premises on the Ground, First, Second and Third Floors measuring approximately 52,995 square feet in the Building known as 'VAISHNAVI BHAVANA' constructed on the Property bearing Municipal No 89/1, Industrial Suburb, Second Stage, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore - 560022, within the jurisdiction of Bruhat Bengaluru MahanagaraPalike and having PID No. 11 - 53 - 89/1 and new PID No 042-W0033-17 and lying within and forming part of Industrial Site No 89, admeasuring 19,630 square feet, (which is inclusive of proportionate share in common areas and facilities) along with exclusive 35 (thirty five) car parking in the basement, together with the demarcated Terrace area of the building for the purpose of (including but not limited to) the installation of telecommunication and its allied accessories. Together with: 1. Air conditioning (High Side) up to ducting; 2. Power Load of 450 KvA with separate meters; 3. 250 KVA back up power; 4. One exclusive Passenger Lift for 6 persons; 5. BWSSB water supply; 6. Fire protection systems - Sprinklers and Fire Exit; 7. Class 1 Vitrified Flooring.
Sd/- (REGISTRAR)
Debts Recovery Tribunal-I for Karnataka
#4, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, 1st Floor, Residency (Hayes) Road, Bengaluru 560025

STORES E-PROCUREMENT

TENDER NOTICE NO. S/12/2022-23 Dated. 12-07-2022. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works. **SN.1. Tender No.**10/20/5001B/OT/31/2022-23. **Brief Description:** Spares for Computer Control Brake System for WDG4 Locomotives as per Annexure "A", "B" and "C". **Closing/Opening date: 27-07-2022. SN.2. Tender No.**10/22/3798C/OT/32/2022-23. **Brief Description:** Element filter & DLW part No. 17452168 to EMD part No. 8470903, MP, TP-50, REV. 0.01, July-2013.**Closing/Opening date: 08-08-2022.** For details please visit website **www.ireps.gov.in**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that we are investigating the ownership right, title and interest of **SRI. K.N. MOORTHY** ("Owner"), S/o late K. Naranaiah, R/at :- No 992/A, 14th Cross, 21st Main Road, Banashankari II Stage, Bangalore-560 070, to the vacant property described in the Schedule hereunderwritten ("the Property").
The investigation is in respect of a proposed purchase of the property by our client **Dr. N. NAGARAJ**
All persons/entities including individuals, Hindu undivided family, company(ies), bank(s), financial institution(s), non-banking financial institution(s), firms, association of persons or body of individuals whether incorporated or not, lenders and/or creditors having any objection, claim, right, title, benefit, liability, commitment, interest and/or demand of whatsoever nature against/upon/in respect of the Property or any part or portion thereof including development rights, by operation of law or otherwise, assignment, bequest, charge, covenant, care-taker understanding, devise, power of attorney, agreement for sale, memorandum of understanding, exchange, encumbrance, partnership, family arrangement / settlement, litigation, easement, gift, inheritance, pledge, lease, sublease, lien, attachment, license, lis-pendens, reservation, mortgage, maintenance, succession, possession, right of way, allotment, sale, share, sub-tenancy, tenancy, transfer, partition, release, relinquishment, will, occupation, agreement, or any understanding, or beneficial right/interest under any trust, right of prescription or pre-emption of under any agreement or other disposition or under any decree, order or award passed by any court or authority or otherwise claiming howsoever or claiming to be in custody possession of the title deeds, documents and writings pertaining thereto or any liability or commitment, demand or otherwise of any nature whatsoever howsoever, to or upon the Property or any part thereof ("Claims") are required to give notice of the same in writing along with relevant documentary proof in that regard to the undersigned at its office at Shekhar Law Associates, Advocates, No 919, 5th Main, M.C. Layout, Near BGS Metro Station, Vijayanagar, Bangalore - 560040, within **14 (fourteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which it shall be deemed that the claimant(s) has / have relinquished such Claims and/or waived the right to exercise such Claims and the right, title and interest of the Owner to the Property shall be deemed to be clear and marketable and free from all encumbrances of any nature whatsoever.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the vacant property **bearing site No 226,** municipal No 450 in the records of BBMP, situated in **6th Block, Nagarbhavi II stage, Bangalore,** measuring East to West 23.78 meter and North to South 11.60 meters, in all measuring **275.84 Square Meter,** bounded on :-
EAST BY :- Road. WEST BY:- Property bearing No 228 & 230. NORTH BY :- Property bearing No 225. SOUTH BY :- Property belonging to Binny Employees Society

DUSHYANTH ARADHYA H.C.
SHEKHAR LAW ASSOCIATES
ADVOCATES & SOLICITORS
No.919, 5th Main, M.C. Layout,
Near Hosahalli-BGS Metro Station,
Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560 040.
Mobile : 8197957197
Bangalore Date : 15-07-2022

INSTITUTE OF NANO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MOHALI
(An Autonomous Research Institute of Department of Science and Technology, GOI)
Knowledge City, Sector 81, SAS Nagar, Mohali-140306, Punjab

F.No. 14(14)/2019-INST Date: 14.07.2022

ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POSITION OF JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOW (JRF) & PROJECT ASSOCIATE-I UNDER "J. C. BOSE FELLOWSHIP" PROJECT FUNDED BY 'SERB'

Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST) invites applications for engagement of JRF (1) & Project Associate-I (2), on contractual basis, under J. C. Bose Fellowship project, initially for a period of six months and may be extended upto further period, depending upon the availability of the funds. **Last date of receipt of application: 28th July, 2022. For details, candidate may visit https://inst.ac.in/careers**

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI - 221004

Tender Notice No. : PCE/BLW(ET)/Publish/2022-23/07 **Office of the PCE Dated : 12.07.2022**

E-TENDER

Dy. Chief Engineer, Banaras Locomotive Works, Varanasi on behalf of the president of India invites "Open" Tender **through E-Tendering** from the contractors. **S. N. 1. Tender No. :** BLW-WAT-ET-011-22-23 **Name of work :** Comprehensive maintenance & operation of 0.25 MLD Automated water recycling plant with supply of chemicals for 3 years at Surya sarovar, BLW, Varanasi **Tender Cost (Rs.) :** 7355991.00 **Earnest money (Rs.) :** 147100 **Tender Document Cost (Rs.) :** NIL **Time of completion :** 36 Month **Closing Date Time of Tender :** 05.08.22 at 15:00 pm. **Date of opening of Tender :** 05.08.22 at 15:30 pm. **S. N. 2. Tender No. :** BLW-WAT-ET-013-22-23 **Name of work :** Maintenance of Horticulture Work in Golf Course for 2 years **Tender Cost (Rs.) :** 9303572.31 **Earnest money (Rs.) :** 186100 **Tender Document Cost (Rs.) :** NIL **Time of completion :** 24 Month **Closing Date Time of Tender :** 05.08.22 at 15:00 pm **Date of opening of Tender :** 05.08.22 at 15:30 pm. **Special Notice :** To see the detailed terms & conditions of tender and for submission of tender, please visit website : **http:www.ireps.gov.in.**

PRO/BLW/C-08 Dy. Chief Engineer

/blwvaranasi Website: blw.indianrailways.gov.in

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Service No.1350983-L Rank: TS/NK, Name: S.Rayan Dass of Unit 9 Engineer Regiment, R/a No.8, Annayappa Garden, Jaganahalli, JP Nagar post, Bangalore-560078 hereby state that my name has been wrongly mentioned as Selvanayagam Rayan Dass in my service records but my correct name is S Rayan Dass, vide affidavit dt: 11.07.2022 sworn before Notary L.Shankaranarayana, B'lore.

I, Abhijit Ray S/o Kabita Ray , #65, room no 101, mlk homes, Sai sanjeevani layout, Sai baba temple road, Near Kundanhalli Gate, Marathalli, Bangaluru-560037, changed my name to Abhijit Ray for all purposes.

I, NO.TJ-6839F Rank Sub Name K Kondappan presently residing at Seekalapallai (Vill), Melumalai (PO), Shoolagiri (Tek), Krishnagiri (Dist), Tamil Nadu-635115 have changed my son's name from Akshai Kumar to K.Sanjay vide Affidavit dated 04.07.2022 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Lakshmi Narayana S/o Narasimha Raju , R/o: 3676 A,6th Cross(Old 12th Cross),1st Main, Gayatrinagara, Bengaluru-560021, changed my minor Daughter name from Lakshmi Lakshmi Narayana to Jahnvi Lakshmi Narayana for all purposes.

I HEERA Devi dependant of Vimlendu Kumar resident of 74/2, Akash Vihar AF Camp, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037 have changed my name from Heera Devi to Heera Kumari vide affidavit dated 12 Jul 22 sworn before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore

I, MALLALKAR Saubai Appasaheb is legally wedded spouse of No.10490421M Rank PTR Name: Mane Manesh Govind, presently residing at Village - Irali, At Post - Irali, Taq - Kawathe Mahankal, Dist - Sangli, State - Maharashtra - 416405 have changed my name to Mane Saubai Manesh vide Affidavit dated 08.03.2022 sworn before Sivakumara.M.N, Bengaluru.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE KARNATAKA STATE CONSUMER DISPUTES REDRESSAL COMMISSION BASAVA BHAVAN, BANGALORE - 560 001.
Complaint No. 571 / 2019
Complainant : 1. Mr. Richard D'Souza, S/o. Late Louis D'Souza, aged 64 years, R/at. 1-N-E-454/2, Louilland Daddalkad, Ashoknagar, Mangaluru, Dakshina Kannada - 575 006. Rep. by his son & General Power of Attorney, M. Erwick Flyte, D'Souza, S/o. Mr. Richard D'Souza, aged 28 years, R/at #1-N-E-454/2, Louilland, Daddalkad, Ashok nagar, Mangaluru, Dakshina Kannada - 575 006.
Opposite Parties : 1. M/s. Skycold Properties Pvt. Ltd., Rep. by its Managing Director, Mr. Akash A Suvarna, R/at. 42/A, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore - 79.
2. Mr. Akash A Suvarna, R/at. 42/A, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore - 79.
3. Jupiter Infrastructure (Bangalore) Pvt. Ltd., 34, E-Block Extension, Swathi Restaurant Sahakaranagar, Bangalore - 560 092.
To,
3. Jupiter Infrastructure (Bangalore) Pvt. Ltd. 34, E-Block Extension, Swathi Restaurant Sahakaranagar, Bangalore - 560 092.
NOTICE TO THE OPPOSITE PARTY No. 03 FOR HEARING OF COMPLAINT IN ENGLISH DAILY NEWS PAPER "THE HINDU"
Whereas the complainant has filed the complaint against Opposite Party No. 03 under section 17 of the Consumer Protection Act claiming reliefs. You are hereby notified to appear before this Hon'ble Commission in person or through a pleader or person authorized as per law to answer all the material question of facts and law relating to the Complaint on **18th day of July Two Thousand Twenty Two (18/07/2022) at 11.00 AM.**
Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the day mentioned above complaint will be heard and determined in your absence as per law.
Give under the hand and seal of this Commission on this 30th day of May Two Thousand and Twenty Two (30-05-2022)
By Order of the Commission, Asst. Registrar-Cum. Asst. ADMN. OFFICER, K.S.C.D.R.C. Bangalore - 560 001.
Advocate for Complainant

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SOMANATH Harumanth Kumbar, R/o #15, 2nd Floor, Siddhi Nilaya, R Chandrappa Layout, 4th Cross, Vidhyaranyapura, Jalahalli, Bengaluru-560013, have changed my name to Ramnath Kumbhar vide Affidavit dt: 14-07-2022 before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru.

I RAMASHANKAR Prasad Singh dependent of Vimlendu Kumar resident of 74/2, Akash Vihar AF Camp, Marathahalli, Bangalore-560037 have changed my name from Ramashankar Prasad Singh to Rama Shankar Singh vide affidavit dated 12 Jul 22 sworn before Notary A.R. Muneer Ahmed, Bangalore

I, MUTHARASU S/O Narayana perumal born on 12/12/1974 residing at 57 Kottavilai, Eraviputhoor post, Kanyakuman District have changed my name to Arasu Narayan vide affidavit dated 13/07/2022 at Issaquah.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Somashekara S.N.** aged about 49 years F/o **Purvank S.** aged about 15 years, residing at House No. 252, 3rd 'C' Cross, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage, Basaveshwaranagara, Bangalore - 560079, state that my name is **Somashekara S.N.** and not Somashekar S.N. by affidavit sworn before the Notary Puttaramaiah Reg. No. Law 130 at City Civil Court Complex, Bengaluru.

PUBLIC NOTICE

BEFORE THE SUBORDINATE JUDGE OF PERUNDURAI
M.C.O.P. No: 31 / 2020

Sakthivel,
Son of Marimuthu - Petitioner
V/s
P.Saravanakumar,
son of Periyasamy,
No.4K, P.N.Extension,
Kalasipalayam,
Bangalore. –2nd Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that the above compensation case filed by the petitioner is posted to 18.08.2022 for your appearance. If your failed to appear before the about court at 10.00 A.M. on that day the matter will be decided exparte.

S. Ayyappan ,M.A. BL.,
Advocate
Perundurai - 638052.T.N.

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE NATIONAL COMPANY LAW TRIBUNAL AT BENGALURU
C.P. (CAA) NO. 21/BB/2022
ALONG WITH C.A. (CAA) NO. 9/BB/2022
In the matter of Companies Act, 2013
AND
In the matter of Section 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with the Companies (Compromises, Arrangements and Amalgamation) Rules, 2016
AND
In the Scheme of Merger by Absorption of Biocon Biologics Limited and Covidshield Technologies Private Limited and their respective shareholders and creditors

NOTICE OF PETITION

A Company Petition under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013 ("Petition") for sanctioning the Scheme of Merger by Absorption amongst Biocon Biologics Limited ("Petitioner/Transferee Company"), having its registered office at Biocon House, Ground Floor, Tower-3, Semicon Park, Electronic City, Phase-II, Hosur Road, Bengaluru-560100, Karnataka, Covidshield Technologies Private Limited ("Transfer or Company") having its registered office at Office No. 401, 4th Floor, Sarosh Bhavan, 15-B/1, Dr. Ambedkar Road, Pune-411001, Maharashtra, and their respective shareholders and creditors, was presented before the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench ("Hon'ble Tribunal") by the Petitioners on June 3, 2022. The Petition was admitted on June 6, 2022 and is fixed for hearing before the Hon'ble Tribunal on July 26, 2022 at 10:30 A.M. Any person whose interest is likely to be affected or who is desirous of supporting or opposing the Petition should send to the Hon'ble Tribunal and Petitioner's advocate, at the address given below, notice of his/her intention, signed by him/ her or his/ her advocate, with his/her name and address, so as to reach the Petitioner's advocate not later than two (2) days before the date of hearing. Where any person seeks to oppose the Petition, the grounds for opposition, or the copy of the affidavit shall be furnished with such notice.
A copy of the Petition shall be furnished by the undersigned to any person requiring the same on payment of prescribed charges.

J. Sagar Associates
Level 3, Prestige Obelisk,
3 Kasturba Road, Bengaluru - 560001
July 15, 2022.

M BG-BGE

FROM THE ARCHIVES

How to grease the wheels of justice

The problem of pendency of cases in courts across the country can be tackled with a few measures

THE GIST

- In India, more than 40% of cases are decided after three years, while in many other countries less than 1% of cases are decided after three years.
- Computer algorithms should decide on case listing, case allocation and adjournments with only a 5% override given to judges.
- All the courts in the country must switch to a hybrid virtual mode immediately and start disposing cases. Even after the COVID-19 crisis ends, it would be beneficial to continue hybrid virtual courts.

SHAILESH GANDHI

The Hindu published a full-page graphic on pendency in courts and how it is resulting in increase in undertrials across various States. In this article dated September 29, 2021, Shailesh Gandhi argues how by filling sanctioned judicial positions and the use of technology, we can help solve the problem of pendency in courts.

Speaking at an event organised by the Karnataka Bar Council, Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana quoted former Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Warren Burger, "The notion that ordinary people want black robed judges, well-dressed lawyers in fine courtrooms as settings to resolve their disputes is incorrect. People with problems, like people with pains, want relief and they want it as quickly and inexpensively as possible." He made a plea to 'Indianise' courts to make them responsive to the needs of the Indian citizens.

The Chief Justice of India has the historic opportunity to make this happen. At present, despite good intentions, the nation's judiciary is hurtling towards a disaster and needs immediate attention. A measure of the justice delivery system is the pendency of cases in courts across the country.

More than 40% of cases are decided after three years in India, while in many other countries less than 1% of cases are decided after three years. If India does not act decisively and quickly, this percentage will keep increasing. The rich, the powerful and the wrongdoers have a field day by getting their cases expedited or delayed as they wish. The increase in corruption and crime is a direct fallout of the sluggish justice delivery system. This severely impacts the poor and marginalised. For them, the judicial process itself becomes a punishment. Data show that about 70% of prisoners in India are undertrials and are mostly poor citizens.

Filling vacancies

Two measures can be implemented within two years to tackle this issue. First, reduce the pendency of cases by filling sanctioned judicial positions. Analysis shows that between 2006 and 2019, the average increase in pendency was less than 2% per year whereas the average vacancy in sanctioned judicial positions was about 21%. If the sanctioned positions had been filled, pendency of cases would have gone down each year.

The nation neither needs 70,000 judges, as claimed by former Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur, nor does it need to double the present number of judges. It needs to add about 20% of judges. This is in line with the sanctioned strength. This figure has been endorsed by Justice B.N. Srikrishna, Justice R.C. Chavan and 100 IIT alumni. The responsibility of selecting judges is largely with the judiciary itself. The responsibility of appointments in the subordinate judiciary lies with the State governments and their respective High Courts. The responsibility of ensuring near-zero vacancies should be with the Chief Justices of the High Courts and the Chief Justice of India and they should be held accountable for the same. Right now, nobody believes that they are accountable, and filling judicial vacancies is not considered a matter of priority.

All the recommendations are based on the Supreme Court's various decisions and the e-Committee's recommendations

Filling all vacancies may result in a requirement of about 5,000 courtrooms. A simple solution would be to run 5,000 courts in two shifts.

Use of technology

The second is to improve working with the use of technology. The e-Committee of the Supreme Court has been in existence since 2005. It has made three outstanding recommendations which are not being followed. One, computer algorithms should decide on case listing, case allocation and adjournments with only a 5% override given to judges. It said all rational reasons and limits should be put on adjournments; case listing should give main weightage to 'first in, first out'; and case allocation should take into account logical criteria. This would be a big step in reducing arbitrariness and the unfair advantage that the powerful enjoy.

Two, the courts should focus on e-filing. The e-Committee made detailed SOPs on how petitions and affidavits can be filed and payment of fees can be done electronically without lawyers or litigants having to travel to the courts or use paper. This should be implemented in all seriousness and would also save about three lakh trees annually.

Three, it focused on virtual hearings. COVID-19 prompted the courts to adopt virtual hearings. However, virtual hearings were held only in some cases while physical hearings were held in most. In pre-COVID-19 years, the increase in the pendency of cases in all courts used to be about 5.7 lakh cases a year. In 2020 alone, it increased to an astonishing 51 lakh. It appears that if a hybrid virtual hearing model is not adopted, the backlog of cases could cross 5 crore in 2022. The dysfunctional justice system will be perpetually overwhelmed.

All the courts in the country must switch to a hybrid virtual mode immediately and start disposing cases. Even after the COVID-19 crisis ends, it would be beneficial to continue hybrid virtual courts. This will make access to justice easier for litigants, reduce costs, and also give a fair opportunity to young lawyers from small towns. The required hardware is available in all courts.

No change in laws

All the recommendations – e-filing of petitions, affidavits and payment of fees; algorithm-based computerised listing, roster, case allocation and adjournments with only a 5% override to be given to judges; hybrid virtual hearings; filling judicial vacancies; and holding Chief Justices responsible for ensuring that vacancies in judicial positions are less than 5% – are based on the Supreme Court's various decisions and the e-Committee's recommendations. These would require no changes in laws. At a conference, High Court Chief Justices, the Chief Justice of India and the government could make decisions on all of this.

If all this is done, India's judicial system can rank among the top 10 countries of the world. These changes would make India the preferred nation for international investments and also fulfil the fundamental right to speedy justice of citizens

Shailesh Gandhi is former Central Information Commissioner

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

'Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"Sir, I am desiring to know the difference between 'deprecate' and "depreciate."

"It is not 'I am desiring to know' but 'I desire to know'. You don't use 'desire' with 'ing'. I hope you remember that generally verbs like 'love', 'know' don't take the 'ing' form. That is, you don't say 'I am loving him', 'I am knowing him'. You say 'I know him', 'I love him'. Again in informal contexts 'desire' as a verb is not used. You say 'I want to know' or 'I'd like to know' and not 'I desire to know'.

'Depreciate' literally means to bring down the price or value'. 'Depreciate' is the opposite of 'appreciate'. 'Appreciate' has several meanings. One of them is 'to become higher in value'.

My shares have depreciated.

His paintings appreciated steadily over the years, but his car depreciated.

He depreciated her contribution to science.

'Deprecate' means 'to feel and express disapproval of'.

He deprecated his action.

He deprecated her conduct at the meeting.

"What's the meaning of 'razzmatazz', sir?"

"It means 'noisy, 'showy publicity', 'flashy quality or display', 'fuss', 'commotion'. This is not a new word. This was used as early as 1899.

She is a real razzmatazz.

I can't stand him. He's a razzmatazz fellow.

She turned a solemn occasion into a razzmatazz.

The party was a razzmatazz.

It's a razzmatazz car.

There are some other meanings also. But we need not go into them as this is the way in which it is used most often these days."

"What is the difference between 'ability' and 'capacity', sir?

'Ability' refers to your power to do things. It can be physical or mental.

His ability as a teacher is remarkable.

He has outstanding ability as a novelist

'Capacity' literally means 'the power to receive or contain'.

The capacity of this tank is 1,000 gallons.

The seating capacity of the auditorium is 1,560.

'Capacity' when used with persons means 'power to absorb or learn as opposed to power-in-doing'. It is mental rather than physical. It is potential rather than actual.

His capacity for work is astounding.

His capacity for remembering things is extraordinary.

He has great capacity for learning languages.

He doesn't have the capacity to be Prime Minister.

'Ability' can be acquired. 'Capacity' is inborn. Let's stop here for the day. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

On July 14, 1960, primatologist Jane Goodall arrived in Tanzania to study chimpanzees in the wild. Here's a quiz on wild-life conservationists/biologists.

1 Jane Goodall's work as a primatologist studying chimpanzees was inspired and guided by the attempt by a paleo-anthropologist who sought to study primates in their natural habitats to understand evolution of human beings. Name him.

2 The answer to Question 2, also chose two other female researchers apart from Goodall to study primates. Who was the researcher who that undertook research by living with and studying mountain gorilla groups in the forests of Rwanda?

3 The third primatalogist chosen by the person (answer to Question 2) went on to study orangutans in Borneo, Indonesia and is regarded as the world's leading authority on the ape. Name her.

4 The actress Urmila Matondkar headlining the Marathi film, "Ajoba" was essaying a role depicting which real life leopard expert and wildlife biologist?

5 A Padma Shri award winner, this conservationist pioneered the use of camera traps to estimate the population of animals in the wild. He was also consulted by the novelist RK Narayan for his book, "A Tiger for Malgudi". Name him.

This small spiny lizard, found in Namibia, is one of more than 50 genera and species of organisms, whose scientific name derives from that of this biologist who wears other hats as well. Name him. • WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's quiz: 1. Name another important event on July 14, 1789. **Ans: The Fête de la Fédération (Festival of the Federation)**

2. Name the ruler of France when Parisian revolutionaries stormed the state prison. **Ans: Louis XVI**

3. Name the French literary figure imprisoned at the fortress till July 4, ten days before the rebels stormed inside. **Ans: Marquis de Sade**

4. Name the President who donated 60 francs to the widows of those killed in taking the Bastille. **Ans: Thomas Jefferson**

5. Bastille Day features the oldest and largest military parade. When did this start and when did Indian soldiers participate for the first time. **Ans: 1880 and 2009**

6. Name former French colony in India that observes the French National day. **Ans: Puducherry**

7. Name the fiction and the author which tells the story of Dr. Manette. **Ans: Charles Dickens' 'A Tale of Two Cities'**

8. Name the starting and ending points of the Bastille Day military parade in Paris. **Ans: The parade passes down the Avenue des Champs-Élysées from Place Charles de Gaulle to the Place de la Concorde**

Visual: Name the French artist who painted 'The Fourteenth of July'. **Ans: Claude Monet**

Early Birds: S.S. Siva Shankar | Joseph Varghese | K.N. Viswanathan | Upasana Chopra

Compiled by: Srinivasan Ramani

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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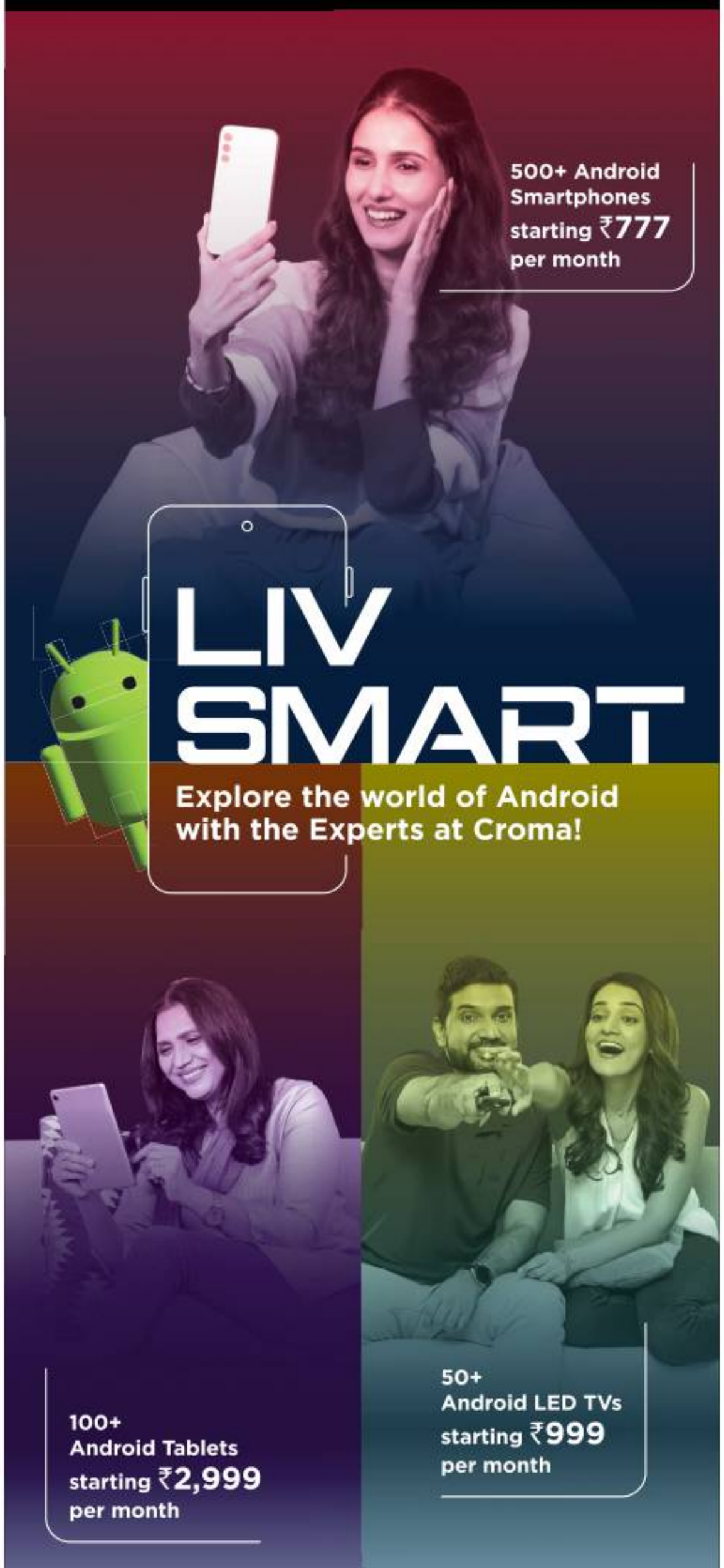

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S.D SHIBULAL | CO-FOUNDER, INFOSYS

'The conversations here will be science-based'

The Infosys co-counder speaks about Infosys Science Foundation's plans for the new office space inaugurated in Jayanagar

JAHNAVI T.R.
BENGALURU

After giving out the Infosys Prize to the country's scientists and scholars from various disciplines for almost 12 years, the Infosys Science Foundation (ISF) inaugurated its new office in Jayanagar on Thursday.

The new office has a hundred-seater technology enabled auditorium, several conference rooms, dining spaces and offices for the members of ISF.

Speaking virtually during the inauguration, N.R. Narayana Murthy (Founder, Infosys, and Trustee, ISF), said "My fond hope is that this modern building will be a citadel of openness to new ideas, curiosity, critical thinking, healthy scepticism, and agreeable disagreement for our young minds, and shape their minds to become good researchers."

Kris Gopalakrishnan, President, ISF, who also spoke at the event, said that Bengaluru was the only city in the world which had deep roots in science, research, engineering, law and liberal art colleges while also comprising IT services and industries, start ups, venture capitalists and research and developments labs. "To take full advantage of this, we need to look at collaborating for the future of India."

On the sidelines of the event, S.D Shibulal, Co-founder, Infosys Limited and Trustee, ISF spoke to *The Hindu* about the foundation's plan for the office space, importance of research, and other things. Excerpts from the interview:

Now that ISF has a physical space, what are the activities that will take place here?

●We hope that like other public spaces, this place also facilitates conversations which can either be convergent or divergent. Unlike other public spaces, the conversations here will be more science based, rather than community based. We will have our ISF lectures where our laureates will come and speak. We also want to provide a forum for students to speak about science and research as they are our future role models. Over a period of time, this can be a place where researchers and laureates can get together and make this a happening place.

What is the importance of integration of research in education and how will the foundation facilitate this integration?

●The final answer for all basic problems in the health, education or climate sector will all arise from fundamental research. Covid is a very good example where vaccine came out of fundamental bioscience research. Traditionally, research was siloed, but today, we are seeing more interdisciplinary research. Enabling research is not a one stakeholder activity. From KG to PG, curiosity should be inculcated and research environment should be provided. In this direction, the first step of the Foundation is to create role models and the other is to host activities in schools, summer camps for students.

Rural and urban divide is an absolute reality, but at the same time, the boundaries are very close.

Will the ISF roll out any special measures or programmes for women researchers?

●We have a fair share of women in our list of awardees and our jury panel. While the age limit for the (career achievement) award is 50 for men, for women it is 55 years as we understand that they might take a break in between. We are already trying to address the challenges they face. Change happens through conversations and today, there was a major conversation about these issues. Bringing forth such issues to centre stage itself is an activity. We will continue to ensure we encourage women, be inclusive in all our activities and also make sure the issues are centre staged for conversations.

There are many students in rural schools who do not have access to research facilities. What steps will be taken by ISF to bridge the rural-urban gap?

●When we conduct lectures, we do it in a lot of rural areas as well as tier 2 and 3 cities. We have also worked with a couple of other agencies who take science to schools. Rural and urban divide is an absolute reality, but at the same time, the boundaries (between rural and urban areas) are very close. We have encouraged some people in rural schools to take up science. Moving forward, when we have events here, we will not bring in people from urban areas, but start bringing people from nearby rural areas. We will also continue to conduct more activities through other agencies.

COVID: State gears up to give free booster doses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Following the Centre's directions, Karnataka is gearing up to implement 75 days of COVID vaccine Amrit Mahotsav campaign from July 15 to September 30.

Under this campaign, people aged above 18 who have completed six months or 26 weeks after their second dose of COVID-19 vaccination (Covishield and Covaxin) are eligible to avail precaution dose free of cost at all government COVID vaccination centres. According to an official release, the State is ready with a plan to vaccinate 4.34 crore eligible beneficiaries in next 75 days in 8,000 government vaccination centres. Currently, the State has a stock of 8.84 lakh doses of Covishield and 31.55 lakh doses of Covaxin, the release said. "District-wise micro plans are being prepared for conducting workplace vaccinations at IT companies, industries, government offices, etc. along with Har Ghar Dasthak by visiting door to door and Lasika melas every Wednesday," it added.

1,209 new cases, 1 death

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday recorded 1,209 new infections taking the total number of cases to 39,83,025. With this the day's TPR stood at 4.37% and the weekly TPR touched 4.38%. Of the new cases, 1,068 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone.

With one death, the State's toll rose to 40,084. Besides, 42 deaths of patients due to non-COVID-19 reasons have also been recorded. As many as 1,072 persons were discharged on Thursday taking the total recoveries to 39,36,160.

'Sleep pattern has changed post COVID'

Online survey studies responses of 32,000 citizens from across 322 districts

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Among the various post COVID complications that people have been complaining about, sleep disturbances and changes in sleep pattern are common. A recent online survey conducted by LocalCircles, a community social media platform, has shown that 52% of 32,000 people surveyed said their sleep pattern has changed post COVID.

The survey studied responses of 32,000 citizens from across 322 districts of India, 39% of whom were women. Conducted from April 10 to July 9, the survey found that one in two Indians is getting less than six hours of uninterrupted sleep each night while one in four is sleeping less than four hours.

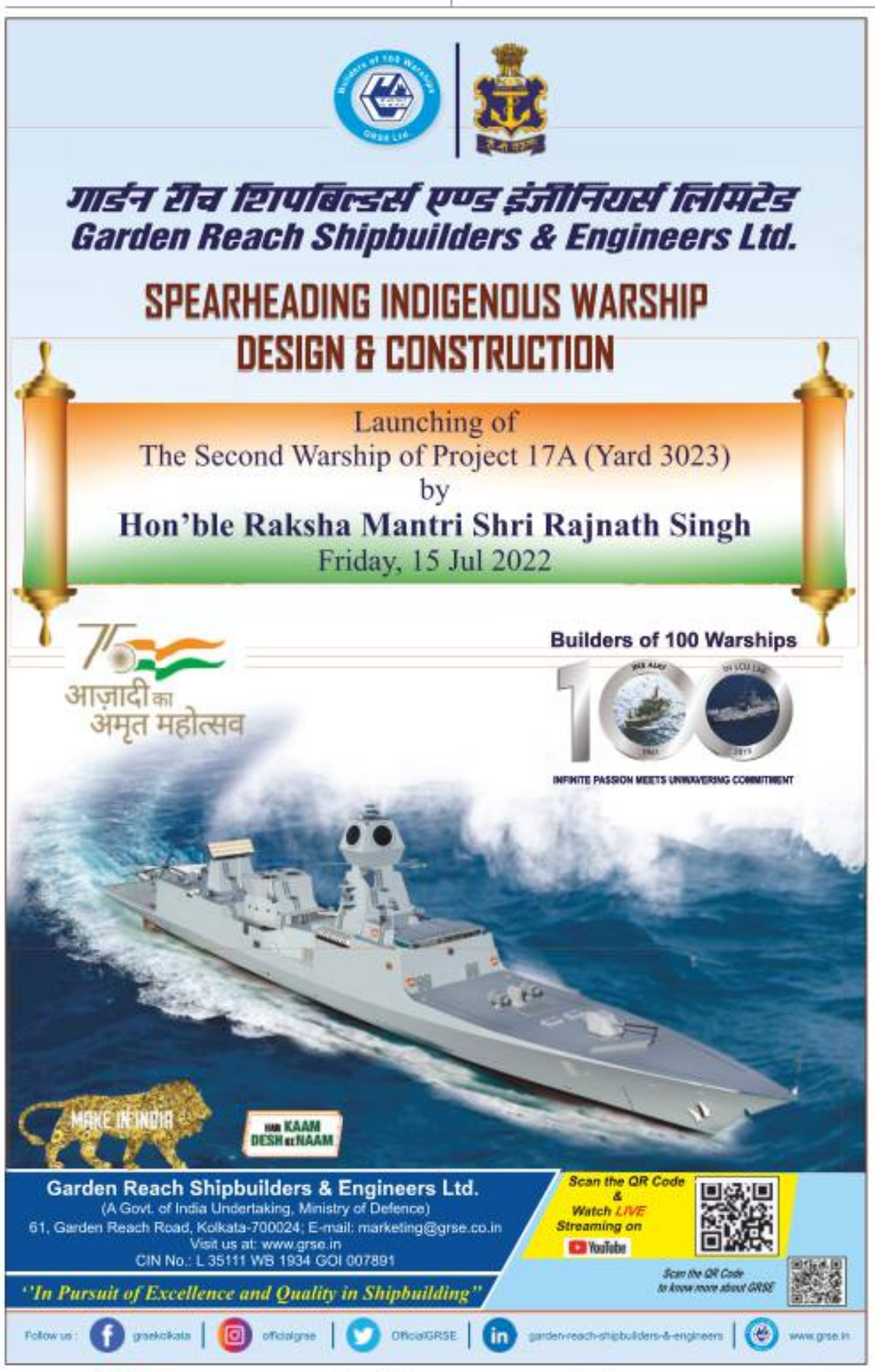
While only 6% of the respondents said they get 8-10 hours of uninterrupted sleep at night, 38% said they get 6-8 hours, 27% said they get four to six hours and 23% upto four hours.

"On an average, one in two Indians is getting less than six hours of uninterrupted sleep each night and one in four is sleeping less than four hours. This question received 20,549 responses," said Sachin Taparia, founder of LocalCircles.

While 7% of citizens said their uninterrupted sleep duration has reduced and they have developed apnea and sleep gets frequently disrupted, 8% said their sleep requirements have increased and three percent said they have trouble going to sleep.

10% of citizens said their sleep has become more irregular for reasons other than COVID. "We have found through the survey that post COVID people are struggling with sleep. Reduced duration of uninterrupted sleep, sleep apnea, trouble going to sleep or needing more hours are some common issues reported," Mr Taparia said.

In Karnataka, of the 3,465 people surveyed, 49% got 6-8 hours of uninterrupted sleep and 27% 4-6 hours. Over 16% got uninterrupted sleep of just four hours. While 49% of the respondents said their sleep pattern has changed post COVID, the sleep requirement of 8% has increased post COVID, the survey said.



GRAPHICALLY SPEAKING

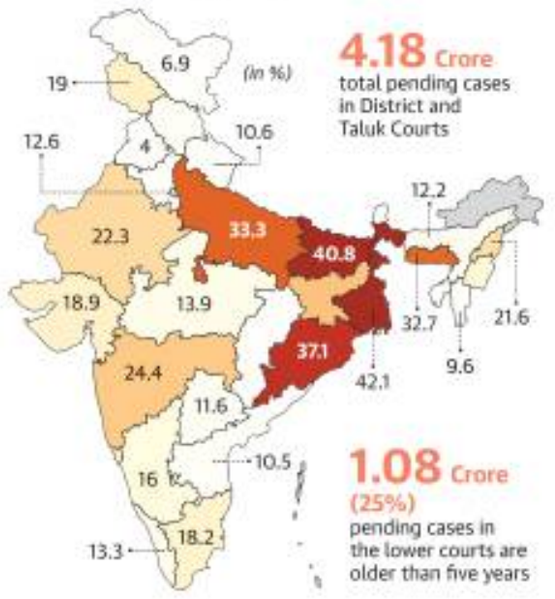
Slow wheels of justice

More than four crore cases are pending in the lower courts (District and Taluk Courts) of India, of which about 25% have been pending for over five years. More than half of India's pending cases were filed in lower courts of Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, and West Bengal. The stark rise in pending cases is a demand and supply issue. In some States, the number of cases filed per capita has burgeoned in recent years, and so the demand for justice is higher. In other States, due to relatively high judicial vacancies, the supply of justice is poor, delaying the cases. For instance, in Maharashtra, Kerala, Delhi, Haryana, and Himachal Pradesh, though the number of cases pending per lakh population is higher than 4,500, less than 25% of them have been pending for more than five years — mostly a demand-side issue. In Bihar and West Bengal, the number of cases pending per capita is lower than national average but over 40% of them are pending for more than 5 years — a supply-side issue. In States such as U.P. and Odisha, both these figures are above India's average — a demand and supply-side issue. Judicial vacancies as a share of sanctioned strength in lower courts are 20% or more in 19 States/U.T.s. Due to inconsistent recruitment, in some States such as Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar and Telangana, there is only one judge per one lakh people. Because of the incessant delays, undertrials as a share of total prisoners have peaked at 76% in 2020. And prisons, especially in the north are overcrowded with occupancy rates as high as 177% in Uttar Pradesh.

By **Pratap Vardhan*** and **Rebecca Rose Varghese**

1 Hanging fire

The map depicts the share of cases pending for more than five years in the lower courts of India. About 1.08 crore cases (25%) of 4.18 crores total cases have been pending for over five years



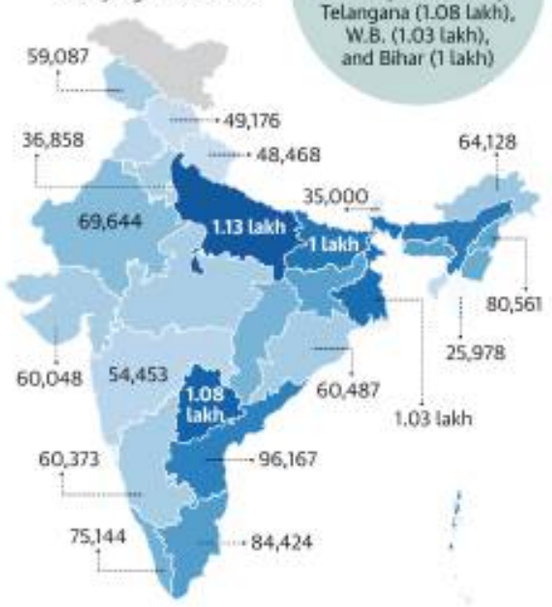
4.18 Crore total pending cases in District and Taluk Courts

1.08 Crore (25%) pending cases in the lower courts are older than five years

2 Availability of judges

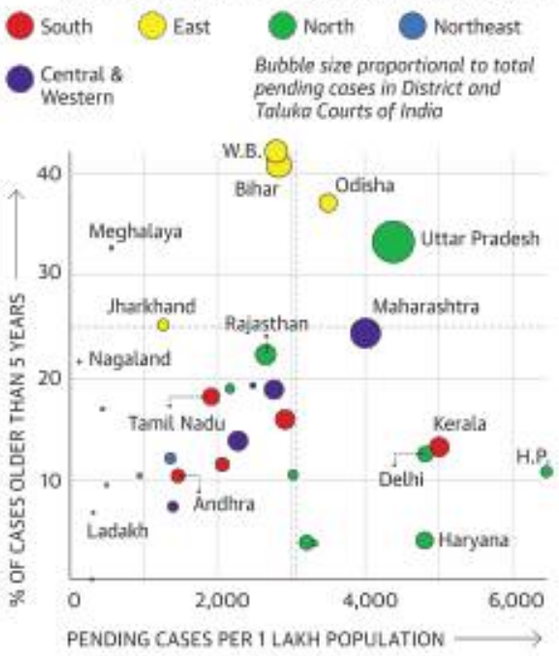
The map shows the number of residents per subordinate court judge in 2018-19

U.P.(1.13 lakh residents per judge) has the poorest judge availability in the country followed by Telangana (1.08 lakh), W.B. (1.03 lakh), and Bihar (1 lakh)



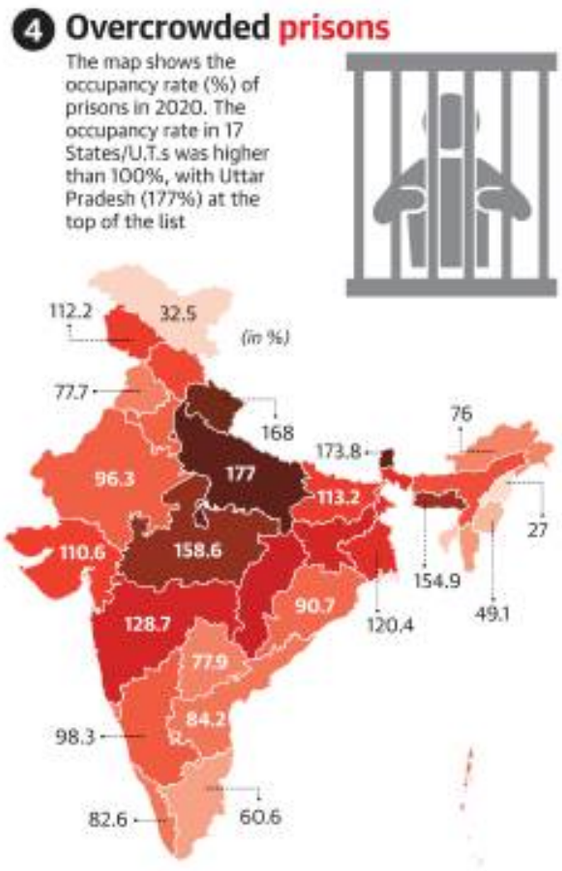
3 Delays and lengths

The chart shows the number of pending cases per 1 lakh population against the share of cases pending for more than five years in different States/U.T.s. Though the number of cases per capita is high for Kerala, Delhi, Haryana and Himachal their pendency % is lower than 25%. U.P and Odisha have both a higher number of cases per capita and the share of cases pending for more than five years



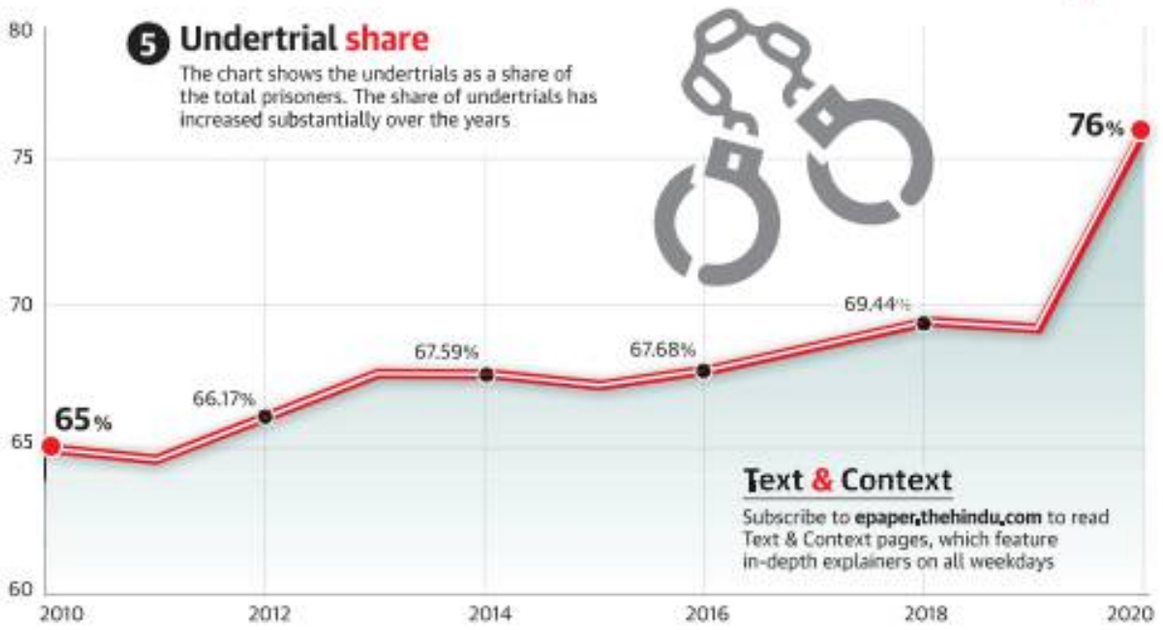
4 Overcrowded prisons

The map shows the occupancy rate (%) of prisons in 2020. The occupancy rate in 17 States/U.T.s was higher than 100%, with Uttar Pradesh (177%) at the top of the list



5 Undertrial share

The chart shows the undertrials as a share of the total prisoners. The share of undertrials has increased substantially over the years



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RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
BENGALURU - 560 080

Raman Research Institute is a premier autonomous institute engaged in research in basic sciences funded by the Government of India. The institute invites applications for the following on a temporary basis.

1. **Research Assistants** for participating in experiments towards secure quantum communications in the Light and Matter Physics (LAMP) Group – 2 Posts
2. **Research Assistants** for carrying out laser- produced plasma based experiments in the Light and Matter Physics (LAMP) Group – 1 Post
3. **Research Assistants** for assistance in test and evaluation and space qualification activities of the POLIX instrument – 2 Posts

For details, please visit; **http://www.rri.res.in/other_openings.html.**

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PRINTING, STATIONERY PUBLICATIONS
R. V. College Post, 8th Mile, Mysore Road, Bangalore - 560 059. Phone : 080-2848 4515, 2848 4518

No. : DPS35PUR(C)2021-22/STATIONERY /CALL-2 Date : 12-07-2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement)

Online Tenders are invited for Supply of Stationery Materials on the contract basis. **Estimated total value of the Tender is about Rs. 90.00 Lakhs & Total EMD Rs. 4.5 Lakhs. Last Date for Submission of Tender : 27-07-2022, 17.30 hrs.** For details please visit **Website : https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** For any further clarifications the above Office may be contacted.

DIPR/Urban/1347/Manipal/2022-23 **Sd/- Director.**

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಗದಗ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಗದಗ
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08372-237414 ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: dobcmgadag@gmail.com

No:BCWDG/OUTSOURCE/TENDER/CR-2 /2022-23 Date:13-07-2022

E-Procurement Tender

2022-23 Year Backward Classes Welfare Department Gadag district E Tender has been invited from **qualified tender for Supply for Group 'D' post Cook, Assistant Cook, Peon, Data Entry Operator and Night Watchman, Staff Nurse Service to Hostels and Residential School/College as out source Agency.**

Tender Amount Rs 275.00 Lakh, E- Tenders are Called for Competitive rates under the KTPP by preferred tenderers. Tenderes can upload the tender form within date :13-07-2022 to 11-08-2022 evening 5:00 PM

Interested applicants are required E-Procurement Online www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in to apply for tender by the due date.

Sd/- District Officer
Backward Classes Welfare Department
Gadag

DIPR/GADAG/174/2022-23/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಜೆ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560002. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080–22220853
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ravindrakalakshetra50@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ರಕಕ್ಷೇ–26011/15/2022 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–07–2022

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಗೆ ಬರುವ ರವೀಂದ್ರ ಕಲಾಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ, ಸಂಸ, ಕಲಾಗ್ರಾಮ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ, ಅರೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿಯವರನ್ನು ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

1) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗೆ ಇಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 72,93,000/– 2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 1,25,000/– 3) ಬಿಡ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15–07–2022 ರಿಂದ. 4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 25–07–2022 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ. 5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 27–07–2022ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 6) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: 29–07–2022ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 7) ಯಾವುದೇ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ ಹಾಗೂ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ರವೀಂದ್ರ ಕಲಾಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ, ಜೆ.ಸಿ. ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕನ್ನಡ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಸ್ಕೃತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560002. ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22213530 / 22241325.

ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು
ರವೀಂದ್ರ ಕಲಾಕ್ಷೇತ್ರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my client has entered into an agreement to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **Sri.H.K.Mohan Kumar** S/o Sri.H.A.Krishnappa, residing at Harohalli village, Muthusandra Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bangalore Rural, Bangalore – 560087.

If any person/s have any manner of right, title, interest or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property or otherwise have any lawful objection/s for sale of the Schedule property by the aforesaid owner, they are hereby called upon to file their objections in writing, along with the photocopies of documents on which they rely, with the undersigned, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Agricultural dry land measuring 6 ½ Guntas in Sy.No.63/7 (formerly part of Sy.No.63/2), situated at Kodiyala Karenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Ramanagara District and bounded on:

East by : Land bearing Sy.Nos.63/3 and 63/6
West by : 25 ft Road
North by : Road
South by : Land bearing Sy.No.62

Sd/- Goutam Chand S.F
Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560 004

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/TPM/CLU-08/807/2022-23 Date: 12.07.2022

PUBLICATION
[Under Section 14 (A) of Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961 (KTCP)]

M/s. Urbanize Developers Managing Director, Sri. H.R. Ravichandra, No. 9/2-2, Purushotham Layout, SBI Road Opposite, ST.Marks Road, Bengaluru-560 085 have requested for change of land use of Sy No. 116, 117, 119/2, 120/2, 120/3 & 120/4 Hulimangala Village & Sy No. 4/2 of Nanjapura Village of Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru District to an total extent 06 Acres 15.25 guntas (excluding 0-01 guntas kharab) which is earmarked as Agriculture zone in RMP-2015. Now it is requested for change of land use from Agriculture Zone to Residential Zone. Applicants stated that the Public interest in the proposal is that by changing land use from Agricultural use to Residential use, it would generate employment for local people and surrounding area will be developed by forming planned layout, it provides good roads, Civic Amenity & Park & open spaces for public use.

As required under section 14(A) of Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act 1961, any person/persons affected by this proposal may file his/her/their objections if any/in writing to the Town Planner Member, BDA, Bengaluru within 15 days from the date of publication. The suggestions/ objections received after the expiry of 15 days will not be considered.

Sd/- Town Planner Member, BDA, Bengaluru
BDA/PRO/CLU/37/2022-23.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(SHARAVATHY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bids in two covers are invited through 'e'procurement portal for Goods (Website: **URL:https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in)** on FOR destination basis from the regular manufacturer/ authorized dealers/ regular supplier with proven track record of having experience in supply of similar materials earlier. **1) KPCL/SGS/MRP68/G4/21-22/3070/CALL-4 dtd: 06.07.2022** Supply of Station Battery and Battery Charger. **EMD: Rs. 7,900/-. 2) KPCL/SGS/MRP68/G6/21-22/3068/CALL-4 dtd: 06.07.2022** Supply of Fuses, Resistors, Relays and Electrical items. **EMD: Rs. 2,300/-. 3) KPCL/SGS/MR54/G22/21-22/3697/CALL-3 dtd: 06.07.2022** Supply of Relay Base, 110KW Soft Starter, Analogue Splitter, Motor Protection Device etc., **EMD: Rs. 24,300/-. 4) KPCL/SGS/MRP68/G5/21-22/3072/CALL-2 dtd: 02.07.2022** Supply of Shunt, Diode, SCR Firing card etc., related to Battery. **EMD: Rs. 4,280/-. 5) KPCL/SVP/MSPJ/2022-23/CALL-4 Dtd: 06.07.2022** Providing services of 2 Nos. of Bolero/ Equivalent 9(8+1) seater Non-A/c vehicles for 24 Hrs. duty with GPS fitted of model 2017 or onwards for 2000km/ month/ vehicle with drivers (3 Nos. of drivers and 1 No. of weekly holidays (12 days) reliever driver) on monthly hire basis from the transport agencies, fleet owners & service providers for a period of 2 years (Extendable by 1 year on the performance of the agency & conditions of the vehicles) at MGHE. **EMD: Rs. 66,320/-.** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: For Sl. No. 1 to 3: **22.07.2022 upto 16.30 Hrs.** Sl. No. 4 & 5: **18.07.2022 upto 16.30 Hrs.** and all relevant details of the bids are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (MSPJ)**, KPCL, Jogfalls-577435, Dist. Shivamogga. Ph: 08186-244728. Mobile: 94495 98847. E-mail: aemspj@gmail.com

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. SEE/EE/Tr/W&M/DVG/AEE-1/F-114/22-23/Cys-30 Date: 14.07.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement mode only)

KPTCL invites E-tenders in the prescribed form from Reputed Electrical Contractor possessing Super Grade Electrical Contractor License for the following works in Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Davanagere. **Bid Enquiry No. KPTCL/SEE/Tr(W&M)/DVG/EE(O)/AEE-1/22-23/20/13.07.2022** for Providing Intermediate Tower to 66KV line Honnali-Sasuvehalli, 66KV Honnali-Nallur DC line on DC towers in between Location No. 52-53 in Honnali Taluk Davanagere District coming under 220KV Benkikere Division.

Tenders will be accepted through **e-Procurement** Mode Only. For further details, prospective bidders are advised to log on to website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink e-Procurement-KPTCL or to **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **15.07.2022.**

Sd/- **Superintending Engineer (Ele), Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Near Stadium, Hadadi Road, Davanagere. Ph: 08192-250774.**

KARNATAKA ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
No.16 C-1, Millers Tank Bed Area, Vasanthanagara, Bengaluru - 560052.
Phone: 080-22268677/78/79 Fax: 080-22268667
E-mail: kerc-ka@nic.in Website: kerc.karnataka.gov.in

No: KERC/DDP/PC/2022-23/Vol-1/482 Date: 14-07-2022

TENDER NOTICE

Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission, Bengaluru - 560052 invites Electronic Bids, under Competitive Bidding, from eligible Bidders for **LOT-1 to LOT-6**, to avail Consultancy Services for conducting **Prudence Check of Capital Expenditure of KPTCL, ESCOMs and HRECS in Karnataka for FY21 & FY22,** from reputed and experienced consultants, as per the Scope of Work and the Terms & Conditions as indicated in the Tender Documents.

The soft copies of tender documents may be downloaded and submitted through e-Procurement Portal: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** during the period **from 15-07-2022, 4.00 PM onwards to 01-08-2022 before 11.00 AM.**

For further information, please contact helpdesk Phone Number: **080-22268677/78/79** - extension No: **211** of KERC

Sd/- Secretary

DIPR/CP/1370/2022-23 **For Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission**

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH, CHAMARAJANAGAR OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
DC Office, Room No. 121, Chamarajanagar
E-Mail : dswochanagards@gmail.com Phone : 08226-222855

No.DDSWD/D3/KRIES/CR-01/2022-23 Dated : 11-07-2022

KRIES, Department of Social Welfare, Chamarajanagar District, Short term E-Procurement Mentor Tender invited for the provision of KRIES Schools and Colleges Total 13 Tenders Maximum Estimated Rs. 413.09 lakhs offers in the tender invited by E-Procurement, which can be downloaded online on : 09-07-2022 to 23-07-2022 Till 5.00 PM. Last Date for Submission of Tenders 23-07-2022 Till 5.00 PM. Bid Opening Date : 25-07-2022 After 11.00 AM and more Further changes to this notification will only be published by E-Procurement.

For More Information / Details Visit **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** Website Or Contact Department of Social Welfare Office, Chamarajanagar.

Sd/- Deputy Director,
Dept. of Social Welfare,
Chamarajanagar

DIPR:CHANAGAR:191:2022-23

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division, Almatti-586201. Tq:B.Bagewadi. Dt: Vijayapur. Phone:08426-281410

NO.KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DPT-/L.S/e-tender/2022-23/379
dated: 12-07-2022

2nd Call SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (through e-procurement)

Ref: This Office Tender Notification NO.KBJNL/DCF/BUD/DPT-/L.S/e-tender/2022-23/315 dated: 22-06-2022

Short term tenders are called through e-procurement for 4 Works in KBJNL Landscape Programme as per the KPTT Act 1999 and Rules 2000. Bidders may get detailed information and Terms and conditions to apply at www.e-proc.karnataka.gov.in and in the above mentioned office. The tender processing fee should be paid through e-procurement.

Calendar of events

Sl.No	Details	2nd Call Tender Date
1	Published tender Date (Appox)	12.07.2022 at 5.00 PM
2	Pre Bid Meeting	16.07.2022 at 3.00 PM
3	Last Date for receiving the tender bids	22.07.2022 upto 5.00 PM
4	Opening Technical bids	25.07.2022 at 11.00 AM onwords
5	Opening Financial bids	28.07.2022 at 11.00 AM onwords

Note: A pre-bid review meeting will be conveyed on Dated 16-07-2022 3.00 PM in the Office of Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL Forest Division, Almatti, the Contractor shall submitt querries if any in Writing to the undersigned office on or before 15-07-2022 at 5.00 PM.

Sd/- Deputy Conservator of Forests, KBJNL, Forest Division, Almatti

ವಾಸೂಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/267/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client Mr. ISMAIL SHARIEF desirous of purchasing all that piece and parcel of immoveable property morefully described in the schedule hereunder from its present owners Mrs. NEELU GUPTA W/o Sri Amit Gupta she is acquired the right, title and interest over the schedule property under absolute sale deed registered as document No.BNG/6778/1999-2000, dated 05-11-1999 registered in the office of the Sub Registrar, Kengeri, Bangalore.

Any person or persons asserting any charge, lien, right, title, agreement, interest, or claim on the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claim against the schedule property or the documents thereof or against the owner or objection to such sale in favour of my clients should lodge her/his/their/its objection or claims with supporting documents to the undersigned address in writing within 15 days (Fifteen days) from the date of this publication. If no claim or objections are received within the stipulated time, after which period my clients shall proceed with the purchase of the schedule property on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with regards to the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential house property bearing Site No.16, Katha No.900, Assessment No.97, Kothanur, Gramanthana Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk. The said property earlier comes under the purview of Gottigere Group Panchayati, Presently comes under BBMP, BMMP Katha No.4/97/16, Kothanur Presently BBMP Ward No.194 - Gottigere, Bangalore, measuring East to West 80 Feet and North to South 50 feet, in all totally measuring 4000 Sq.ft. along with stilt parking, ground, first and second floors Building and bounded on the:- East by: Private Property, West by: Road, North by: Property No.15, South by: Property No.17

Abdul Salam. N.K
Advocate,
No.29, 1st floor,
Park Road ,Tasker Town, Bangalore- 560051
Ph. 9880193347

KRISHNA BHAGYA JALA NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KBJNL,MLI Division No-1 Mattihal-586210.
Tq:Kolhar, Dist: Vijayapur. Phone:08426-286126, E-mail: kbjnleemli@gmail.com

No: KBJNL/MLI Dn-1/PB/Tender/2022-23/366 Date:11.07.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Only)

On behalf of the Managing Director, KBJNL, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KBJNL, MLI Division No.1, Mattihal invites tenders on Percentage Basis from the eligible Contractors for 01 Nos works **Indent No 21494.** The amount put to tender are in the range of **90.06 Lakhs.** The tenderers are required to up load two separate covers one containing first cover (technical bid) should contain the documents and second cover shall contain financial bid. The cover-1 (technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-2 (financial bid) of only those bidders who have uploaded the EMD in E-Cash and fulfil the conditions contained will be opened. The terms and conditions visit the website https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in or this office on **25.07.2022, up to 05.00 pm.**

Tender schedule are as below

1) The contractor can have access to E-tender document from **11.07.2022 to 25.07.2022 up to 5.00 PM**
2) Submission of completed e-tendering documents up to **25.07.2022 up to 5.00 PM.**
3) A Pre-bid conference for Indent no-21494 will held on **20.07.2022 at 11.00 am** at the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL, MLI Division-1, Mattihal, Kolhar taluk, Vijayapura district. The bidders should submit their queries if any for clarifications on or before **25.07.2022 up to 5.00pm** positively
4) Cover –I (Technical bid) will be opened in the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL, MLI Division-, Mattihal, Kolhar taluk, Vijayapura district on **27.07.2022 at 11.00 AM**. The technical bids of all bidders who have uploaded the tender along with all relevant documents will be considered in the technical evaluation.
5) Cover –II (Financial bid) of qualified bidders will be opened on **29.07.2022 at 11.00 AM** or **after approval of Technical Evaluation** in the office of the Executive Engineer KBJNL, MLI Division-1, Mattihal, Kolhar taluk, Vijayapura district.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KBJNL, MLI Division No-1,Mattihal

ವಾಸೂಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/260/ಎಂಸಿಎ/2022–23

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಖಾದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೋದ್ಯೋಗ ಮಂಡಳಿ
"ಖಾದಿ ಭವನ" ನಂ.10, ಜಸ್ಮಾ ಭವನ ರಸ್ತೆ, ವಸಂತನಗರ,
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 052. ದೂ.080–22266852.
ಇಮೇಲ್:kviboardbangkar@gmail.com ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್:https://khadi.karnataka.gov.in

ಸಂ.ಖಾಮಂ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ–2/722/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14.07.2022
(ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಸಂ.ಖಾಮಂ/ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ–2/722/2021–22, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.10.2021)

:: ನೇಮಕಾತಿ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ::

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಖಾದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೋದ್ಯೋಗ ಮಂಡಳಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಬಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಗ್ರೂಪ್–ಸಿ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳ ನೇರ ನೇಮಕಾತಿಗಾಗಿ ನಡೆದ ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಎಲ್ಲಾ ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶವನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.07.2022** ರಂದು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಖಾದಿ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮೋದ್ಯೋಗ ಮಂಡಳಿಯ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://khadi.karnataka.gov.in** ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಭ್ಯರ್ಥಿಗಳು ಈ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಮ್ಮ ಫಲಿತಾಂಶವನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು

Government of Karnataka Executive Engineer, RDW&S, Division, Mysore

Short Term Tender Notification No: 12/2022-23 Date: 12.07.2022

short term tender notification is as below.

On behalf of the Governor of Karnataka Items rate tenders under KW-1, KW-2 & KW-3 Standard Bid documents (Single & Two cover system) has been called for 75 works (Estimate cost Rs 28.00 Lakhs to Rs.98.55 Lakhs) of Hunasur, Nanjangud & T Narasipura Taluk under the Head of Account: 2021-22 Jal Jevan Mission. Tender is been invited as per Karnataka transparency Act G.O.No.FD9 PCL 2004 Dt. 06.08.2005 and as per recent amendments, Date of uploading Tender forms under e-procurement Dt: 18.07.2022 11:00 AM onwards, Last Date for submitting the filled Tender forms is 30.07.2022 upto 5:00PM, Opening of Technical bid 01.08.2022, 05.00 PM onwards, Prebid Meeting Dt:19.07.2022, Opening of Financial bid after approval of Technical bid. Eligible Agencies can participate in the tender process and for e-procurement support contact e-procurement Tel. Phone No 080 – 22485867, 080-22485927. For more details log on to www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or contact the Officer under signed at office hours. Phone No.0821-2460495.Tender Form Fees – As per e-procurement.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RDW&S, Division, Mysore

DIPR/DD-MYS/MCA/239 /2022-23

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Rajarajeshwarinagara Division, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: EE/RI-RRN/TEND/03/2022-23 Date: 13-07-2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure (Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Contractors for the works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount Put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Improvements and Asphalting to selected Arterial, Sub Arterial and Other Connecting Roads in Rajarajeshwarinagar Constituency in RI-Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division for the year 2022-23 RI-RRN **Package No.01**	**2002.00**	**20.10**
2	Improvements and Asphalting to selected Arterial, Sub Arterial and Other Connecting Roads in Rajarajeshwarinagar Constituency in RI-Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division for the year 2022-23 RI-RRN **Package No.02**	**918.00**	**13.77**
3	Improvements and Asphalting to selected Arterial, Sub Arterial and Other Connecting Roads in Yeshwanthapura Constituency in RI-Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division for the year 2022-23 RI-RRN **Package No.03**	**3055.00**	**30.55**

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the GOK e-Procurement Website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in from 16-07-2022. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries is **20-07-2022 upto 16.30 Hrs. at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Rajarajeshwari Nagar Division, BBMP. 3)** Pre Tender Meeting will be held on **21-07-2022 at 16.00 Hrs. at the Office of the Chief Engineer (Road Infrastructure), 4th Floor, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bengaluru. 4)** Tenders must be Submitted online through e-Procurement Portal **on or before 16.00 Hrs. on 25-07-2022. 5)** Technical Bids will be Opened on or after **27-07-2022 at 16.30 Hrs. at the Office of the Executive Engineer, Road Infrastructure - Rajarajeshwari Nagara Division, Annex Building, No.3, Room No.408, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, BBMP.** Further details can be had from the above office

Sd/- Executive Engineer, RI-RR Nagara Division, BBMP.

PAY DEVELOPMENT CHARGES, HELP TO DEVELOP BENGALURU
COVID-19. DO NOT PANIC, BE AWARE
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Government of Karnataka
Office of The District Officer, Minorities Welfare Department, Shivamogga.
1st Floor, Sathyashree Arcade, 5th Parallel Road, Durgigudi. E-mail: domshimoga@gmail.com
Ph.: (08182) 220206

ಸಂ:ಅಸಂಕಇಷಿ/ಹೊ.ಸಂ.ಟಿ.ಕೆ/ಸಿ.ಆರ್–26/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12/07/2022

e-Procurement Tender Notification

Tender bids are invited through e-Portal from interested Tenderers for selection of agency for availing Human Resource Services through Outsource for various cadre posts of Data Entry Operator, D Group, Cooks, Kitchen Assistants, Night Watchmen, Driver, Staff Nurse vacant in Minorities Welfare Department District Office/District and Taluk Information Centres/Student Hostels/Morarji Desai Residential Schools/Colleges for the year 2022-23. Details are as below.

Sl. No. 1. Tender No.: MWDS/OUTSOURCE/T/C.R-26/2022-23 **Approx. Amount put to Tender :** 200.00 Lakhs. **Commencement date for uploading Tender Application:** 11.07.2022 **Last date for uploading Tender Form:** 10.08.2022 At 4.00 PM **Tender Application Fees:**As per E-portal **E.M.D. Amount:** 3.00 Lakhs.

Interested Tenderers should upload in website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in and Tender Document and information is available in the said website.

Sd/- District Officer,
Minorities Welfare Department, Shivamogga.

DIPR/smg/No.71/07/mca/22-23/574

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, SWD, East Zone, 9th Floor, Jayanagara Shopping Complex, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru-560011.

No: EE/SWD-EAST/TEND/05/22-23 Date: 14.07.2022

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through E-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer (SWD-East Zone), BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the construction of work detailed in the table below. The tenderers may submit tenders through E-Procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka (viz., https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in Clause 3 of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract (standard tender document KW-4).

Tenders must be accompanied by Earnest Money Deposit specified for the work in the table below. Earnest Money Deposit will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the tender document and shall have to be valid for 90 days beyond the validity of the tender.

Sl. No.	Package name	Amount put to Tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (Rs.)
1.	Construction/Remodeling of primary, secondary drains, culverts/bridges & all other allied works of SWD spread out at various locations in CV Raman Nagar assembly constituency in East Zone under GoK grants 2022-23 Package-1 (Action plan numbers 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 27) (7 works).	1363.37	Rs.15,00,000/- (Rs.1.00 lakh by e-payment and balance shall be paid through BG/e-payment)
2.	Construction/Remodeling of primary, secondary drains, culverts/bridges & all other allied works of SWD spread out at various locations in Shivajinagar assembly constituency in East Zone under GoK grants 2022-23 Package-1 (Action plan numbers 30, 31, 32, 33, 34 and 35) (6 works).	1642.33	Rs.16,50,000/- (Rs.1.00 lakh by e-payment and balance shall be paid through BG/e-payment)

Bid document fee/procurement fee : As per E-Proc portal.
Period of Completion : 9 Months.

Calendar of Events: (1) Date of pre-bid meeting: 18.07.2022 at 16.00 hrs **(2)** Last date for submission of bid document: 28.07.2022 at 16.00 hrs **(3)** Opening of technical bid: 29.07.2022 at 16.30 hrs. **(4)** Opening of financial bid : Will be intimated to the bidders. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
SWD, East Zone

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Social Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUL. 15		
☀	RISE 06:01	SET 18:50
☾	RISE 20:39	SET 07:26
SATURDAY, JUL. 16		
☀	RISE 06:01	SET 18:50
☾	RISE 21:29	SET 08:29
SUNDAY, JUL. 17		
☀	RISE 06:02	SET 18:50
☾	RISE 22:13	SET 09:29

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	27	19
Bengaluru	25	19

Bengaluru Today
27°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower at some places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be comfortable but humid. Night will be pleasant.

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www.thehindu.com

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (July 15, Friday), the following explainers are available:

- The debate around Forest Conservation Rules bit.ly/forestconserve
- The road to rolling out labour codes bit.ly/roadtolabour

Online exclusives

Quiz
- **Sci-Five** | On the "God particle" bit.ly/3P8j6S5

Video
- **Business Matters** | What is the relation between oil prices and recession? bit.ly/3aBxpPU

Podcast
- Plummeting school test scores: Understanding the bigger problems beyond COVID-19 lockdowns bit.ly/3c94PWx
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.*

People shifted from low-lying areas; flood alert sounded

Rains continue to lash Coastal, Malnad, and parts of North Karnataka

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU/HASSAN/KALABURAGI

As rains continued to lash Coastal, Malnad, and parts of North Karnataka, flood alert was issued in several places and people shifted from low-lying areas.

In Kodagu, local administration has managed to shift over a dozen families from the unsafe zone to the safe zone in Tora in Virajpet taluk, which faced a landslip in 2019 that claimed 10 lives. Meanwhile, heavy rain has been forecast in Kodagu on Friday with IMD declaring an orange alert till 8.30 a.m.

Following landslips on Shiradi ghat, Hassan district administration has ordered restricting movement of vehicles between Donigal and Heggade. There will be movement of all vehicles between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. in a single lane. From 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., only government and private buses, cars, jeeps, two-wheelers and emergency vehicles will be allowed in the stretch. There will be a total ban on all other vehicles, the order said.

The Rama-Lakshmana temple at Hampi in Vijayanagara district is surrounded by water from the overflowing Tungabhadra. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In North Karnataka, for the first time in the last 40 years, the water in Tungabhadra Reservoir near Hospete in Vijayanagara district reached the brim before the expected time owing to the continuous rains in the catchment areas, especially in the Western Ghats.

The reservoir level was 1,631.15 feet holding 98.453 tmcft of water against the Full Reservoir Level of 1,633 feet with a total capacity of 105.788 tmcft.

At Hampi

As the water discharge from the reservoir to the river was increased to over 1.35 lakh cusecs, some more monuments at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Hampi, including Rama Laxmana Temple and Salu Mantapa, got heavily flooded on Thursday. Chakrateertha, Purandara Dasa Mantapa and the footbridge of Vijayanagara time were submerged in the flood waters on Wednesday.

Besides, the crest gates of the Bhadra dam at Lakkavalli in Tarikere taluk were opened on Thursday to release water as the water level reached its maximum level. The catchment area has been receiving heavy rainfall for the past few days.

Kickboxer dies during event, organisers booked

'No emergency medical care at venue'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU/MYSURU

The Jnanabharati police have registered a case of death due to negligence against the organisers and coach of a kickboxing competition after a 23-year-old kickboxer died during a match held at the campus on Sunday.

Nikhil S. died due to a head injury in Bengaluru.

Based on a complaint filed by Suresh P., the police registered a case of death due to negligence against coach Naveen Ravishankar and the organisers on Wednesday.

Mr. Suresh, a retired private firm employee from Mysuru, said in his complaint that his younger son Nikhil S. had participated in the competition organised by Rapid Fitness Gym on the 5th floor of Pai International building.

On Sunday, around 6 p.m., Mr. Suresh received a phone call that Nikhil had been shifted to the hospital after he was injured during the competition. Nikhil was taken to GM Hospital in Nagarabhavi, and then to Manipal Hospital in Yeshwantpur, where he succumbed.

Mr. Suresh alleged that lack of medical facilities at the venue led to the tragic incident. According to him, Nikhil, who fell on the ground after he was punched by his opponent, sustained a head injury due to the thin sponge mat. An unconscious Nikhil was carried from the 5th floor to the ground floor and taken in a private vehicle, which led to further deterioration of his condition, he alleged. There was no emergency medical care at the venue, no paramedical staff, no oxygen facility, stretcher or ambulance available, Mr. Suresh said. The organiser is now absconding, he alleged.

Nikhil's last rites were held in Mysuru on Wednesday evening. Nikhil trained at the Vikram Martial Arts Academy at Krishnamurthypuram in Mysuru and worked in a private firm.

105 kg of red sanders seized

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Kengeri police unearthed an inter-State red sanders smuggling racket and arrested a 30-year-old man from Chitoor, and recovered 105 kg of red sanders worth ₹3.15 lakh.

Chemala Chanchuraja, along with two of his associates, was driving to Mysuru when the police intercepted the car.

Two Tamil plays to be staged on Sunday

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

Two Tamil plays will be staged in Bengaluru on Sunday. Tom Mediaas will present *Perumale - 2*, written by G. Radhakrishnan, and directed by S. Sureshwar, actor, at 4 p.m. UAA will present *Charukesi*, written by Venkat, and directed by Y.G. Mahendra, at 7 p.m. Both plays will be staged at Krishnadevaraya Hall, behind Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Vyalikaval. Tickets are priced at ₹1,000 and ₹700.

Former BBMP councillor stabbed to death

Ayub Khan was killed by his nephew

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 48-year-old former Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) councillor was stabbed to death, allegedly by his nephew over a trivial row in Tipunagar on Wednesday.

The deceased Ayub Khan, was a realtor and also the president of Khudadaad mosque for the last 15 years. Nazima Khanum, wife of Ayub Khan and the present councillor of KR market ward, in her complaint to the Chamarajpet police, alleged that Mateen, Ayub's nephew, had been eyeing the president's post and had been fighting with Ayub to make him the president.

Six months ago, Mateen had fought with Ayub and tried to attack him with a knife. However, the matter was resolved and considering their relationship, Ayub did not file a complaint, she said. On Tuesday night, Mateen again confronted Ayub on the same issue, stating that his dream of becoming the president of the mosque would not be fulfilled until Ayub was alive. This time, the neighbours intervened and sent him away.

On Wednesday evening, when Ayub was walking out of the mosque after the evening prayers and heading home, the accused confronted him and stabbed him before Ayub could react, the police said. Passersby and Ayub's children tried to nab Mateen, but he escaped. Ayub, was rushed to a private hospital where he succumbed on Thursday.

Health Dept. on alert to check outbreak of vector, water-borne diseases

'Keep rapid response teams ready'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

In the wake of incessant rains in several parts of the State, the Health Department is on a high alert to prevent any outbreak of vector and water-borne diseases. The rains and resultant flood like situation in the districts can cause an upsurge in malaria, dengue, chikungunya, Japanese Encephalitis, and Lymphatic Filariasis apart from water-borne diseases.

Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, who chaired a meeting with senior officials last week, has directed the district administration to ensure preparedness to respond to the situation at the earliest.

He has directed officials to keep rapid response teams ready at the district and taluk level. All required medicines, equipment and mobility support should be ready for quick response to any emerging health situation, he has told the officials.

A village/ward level micro-plan for flood prone areas should be ready. Medical officers at primary health centres have been directed to strengthen disease specific surveillance (both active and passive) activities, analyse the data at micro-level to detect any upsurge in diseases for preventive and containment measures.

Man caught with pistol

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Hebbal alert police caught a man from Bihar and recovered a country-made pistol and six live cartridges which he brought from his hometown to sell in the city.

The accused, Pavan Paswan, 20, a native of Motihari district of Bihar and working as a labourer in Electronics City, was caught while he, along with a juvenile, was moving suspiciously on the railway track near Pillekamma temple.

Two held for smuggling hash oil into prison

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Alert security staff of Karnataka Industrial Security Force on Tuesday caught two women in separate cases while they were allegedly trying to smuggle hash oil inside the Central prison of Parappana Agrahara on the pretext of visiting inmates.

Woman police constable Asha Rani, while frisking Chaya T.R., found a plastic bottle of coconut oil concealed in her private part. Chaya had come to meet her relative under trial, Kalappa, and was subjected to frisking after she was given the visitor's pass. Further verification found that the bottle had 55 gm of hash oil. The staff also checked Sangeetha Alphons and found 220 gm of hash oil. Sangeetha had come to meet undertrial Lohith.

The total value of the seized hashish oil is estimated to be around ₹8 lakh, Mallikarjun, Superintendent of Central Prison, said in his complaint.

Similarly, the security staff recovered 85 grams of hash oil worth ₹2 lakh concealed in a layer of a bag which came as a parcel for convict Mohan Srinivas.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Directors, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Govt of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DIVISION KALABURAGI
No: EE/PWD/KD/TS-2/Tender Notification/2022-23/2313 Date:13.07.2022
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
1) Name of Work: Executive Engineer PWD Division Invites tender for the (07) Works under KKRDB for indent No 153135, 153140, 153144, 153156, 153119, 153106, 153098, 2) Estimate cost : Min Rs.300.00 Lakhs Lakhs Max Rs. 700.00Laks, 3) Eligibility of Contractor : Class II, & above, 4) EMD AMOUNT : Min Rs.397000.00 Lakhs Max Rs. 935000.00, 5) Pre bid Meeting : 10.08.2022 (11.00 Hrs), 6) Last date for queries : 12.08.2022 (17.30 Hrs), 7) Last date for Submission of bid : 17.08.2022 (16.00 Hrs), 8) Date of Opening of Technical Bid : 18.08.2022 (16.30 Hrs), 9) Date of opening of Financial Bid: 22.08.2022 (11.30 Hrs), 10) Enquiries : Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division Kalaburagi, 11) Note: GST Will be Paid Separately, 12) Website: www.e-proc.Karnatak.gov.in
Sd/ - Executive Engineer
PWD Division Kalaburagi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/363/MC&A/2022-23

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS, PORTS & INLAND WATER TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chamarajanagara Division, Chamarajanagara
Phone / Fax : 08226-222027 Email : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Procurement portal only)
(Two Cover System : Section-I-Technical Bid and Section-2- Financial Bid)
Tender Notification No. 05/2022-23 Dated : 30-06-2022

Item rate tenders are invited through e-procurement portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-3 & KW-4** form the Total no of works is 4, **H/A : 5054-MDR Bridges** minimum estimate cost Rs. 50.00 lakhs & maximum estimated cost is Rs. 260.00 lakhs, Total no of works is 2, **H/A : 5054-SH Improvements** minimum estimate cost Rs. 440.00 lakhs & maximum estimated cost is Rs. 750.00 lakhs, Total no of works is 1, **H/A : 5054-MDR Improvements** minimum estimate cost Rs. 170.00 lakhs AND Total no. of works is 1, **H/A : 4059-Building** minimum estimate cost Rs. 200.00 lakhs. Further Changes in this Notification will be Published in E-Procurement Only.

Date of Events as follows :

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the e-procurement portal	From 01-07-2022 to 30-07-2022 upto 16.00 Hrs
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	20-07-2022 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Date & Time for Opening of Technical Bid	01-08-2022 after 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for Opening of Financial Bid	03-08-2022 after 16.00 Hrs.

More Information can be had from the Website : **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.
DIPR : CHANAGAR:189:2022-23

KPC GAS POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited)
Yelahanka Combined Cycle Power Plant
CIN: U40102KA1996SGC020337
No. KPCL/2022-23/TB/WORK_INDENT 12451/Call-2 Dated: 12.07.2022
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement Portal only)
Bids are invited from the intending bidders for the work of **Construction of One No. 66kV Terminal bay at the existing 220/66/11kV Bidadi Sub-station for terminating the proposed 66kV 630 Sqmm UG cable from 11.5MW Waste to Energy Project at Bidadi, Ramanagara Dist. on Total Turnkey basis as per KPCL Technical Specifications.** The details of tender documents can be viewed on KPCL website: **www.kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** and may be downloaded from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** The period of completion: **120 days** including monsoon period. Last date for submission of bids through e-portal: **01.08.2022 upto 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be had from the **Chief Engineer (O&M), YCCPP,** KPCGas Power Corporation Ltd., YCCPP Premises, SN Halli Post, Doddaballapura Road, Yelahanka, Bengaluru - 560 064. Mobile: 91416 07685/ 9480682821. E-mail: cegswkpcl@gmail.com/ cegswkpcl@karnataka.gov.in/ **eebidadi.kpcl@gmail.com**

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE is hereby given to the public that we are investigating the right, title, interest, benefits, entitlements of whatsoever nature of the respective owners of the Survey Numbers, as mentioned in the table below, all are situated at, Vishwantathapura Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District, which is more particularly described in the Schedule hereunder written and hereinafter called "Schedule Property".
ALL persons including an individual anybody under law, having any objection, claim, right, title and/or interest in respect of said Property or any part or portion thereof are hereby requested to inform the same in writing, supported with the original documents, to the undersigned having their office at 6/12, Gurappa Avenue, Primrose Road Bengaluru 560 025 within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, the claim or claims, if any, of such person or persons shall be considered to have been waived and/or abandoned.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the land parcels detailed below situated at **Vishwantathapura Village, Kundana Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District**, and bounded on;

SL No.	SY No.	Extent		BOUNDARIES			
		A	G	East By	West by	North by	South by
01	58/5	00	13	Land belonging to Jayamma Bin Bylamma	Land belonging to Harish Krishnamurthy	Road	Sy No 58/2 belonging to Hari prakash
02	69/2	01	00	Sy Nos 69/3 and 69/5	Sy No 69/6	Land belonging to B S Krishnamurthy And Family	Village Boundary of Soluru
03	69/3	01	00	Land bearing Sy No 69/4 now belonging to V.Srikanta [Old Sy No 69/2]	Land bearing Sy No 69/2 belonging to Devaraju	Land belonging to the family of B S Krishnamurthy and Family	Land bearing Sy No 69/5 now belonging to Harish Krishna Murthy And Chandan Krishna Murthy
04	69/5	00	10	Land belonging to Srikanta	Land belonging to Devaraju	Land belonging to Harish and Chandan Krishnamurthy and Sy No 69/3	Village Boundary of Soluru
05	69/6	01	00	Sy No 69/2 [Harish and Chandan Krishna murthy]	Sy No 69/1	Sy No 70	Soluru Village Boundary
06	71	01	39	Sy No 72	Sy No 70	Sy No 74 and 73	Sy Nos 69/2 and 69/3 belonging to Harish and Chandan Krishnamurthy
07	72	03	31	Sy No 58/5 [Old 58/1] and 58/2	Sy No 71	Sy Nos 73	Sy Nos 68/1 and 69/4 [Old Sy No 69/2]
08	73/6	00	08	Sy No 58/5 [Old Sy No 58/1]	Sy No 73/5 [Old Sy No 73/2]	Road	Sy No 72 and B S Krishnamurthy and Family

Mr. S T Prashantha Kumar, Partner,
Fox Mandal & Associates, Solicitors & Advocates,
FM House, 6/12, Primrose Road, Bangalore – 560025, Karnataka, India
Phone: +91 80 25595911
Bangalore Dated: 14.07.2022

ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ (ರಿ), ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ
KOPPAL INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES (R), KOPPAL
ನೋಂದಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:KOL-S243-2012-13 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-03-2013
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಯತ್ತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ)
Website : www.kimskoppal.karnataka.gov.in email :directorkimskoppal@gmail.com
Office : 08539 225522 Office : 08539-225523
NO.KIMS/KOPPAL/TENDER/OBG-LAPRO/32/2022-23 Date: 13.07.2022
TENDER-NOTIFICATION
Tender is invited for Supply of Equipments/Instruments required for OBG Department Teaching Hospital, KIMS Koppal from eligible tenderers in a two bid system through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in
1) Tender documents may be download from the e-procurement portal from **15/07/2022 from 5.30 PM.** 2) Tender must be submitted online through e-procurement portal on or before **30/07/2022 @ 5.30 PM.** 3) Technical Bids will be opened on **02/08/2022 @11.30 AM.** 4) Tender Approximate Cost: **68.69 Lakhs.** 5) EMD- **2.5%** on Quoted Tender Value.
Further information may be obtained from the above office during office hours & also from E-Procurement Website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in and this office web-site www.kimskoppal.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- **Director,**
KIMS, Koppal
DIPR/KOPPAL/229/2022-23/DESHPANDE PUBLICITY

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರವಾರ
ಸಂ: [illegible]/2022-23/1083 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11.07.2022
ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್)
ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವರಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ ಇವರಿಂದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಕೋಷ್ಟಕದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು. ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅರ್ಹರಾಗಬೇಕಾದಲ್ಲಿ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು (ಕೋಷ್ಟಕ-2 & 4) ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಗದಿಪಡಿಸಿರುವ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು.
(1) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿಚಾರಣೆಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: **22.08.2022 16.30 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ** (2) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿ: **23.08.2022 16.30 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ** (3) ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: **24.08.2022 17.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ** (4) ಟೆಂಡರಿನ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: **29.08.2022 17.00 ಗಂಟೆ ವರೆಗೆ**
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು: ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: **5054-MDR Improvements APPENDIX 'E'** ವರ್ಗ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್: (1) 153757 (2) 153771 (3) 152122
(ಕೋಷ್ಟಕ-1&4) ರಲ್ಲಿನ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಮುಂದಿನ ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ e-procನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾದ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದರೆ "eproc.karnataka.gov.in" ನೋಡಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 918025501216 & 918025501227) ಇವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು.
ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕಾರವಾರ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾರವಾರ
DIPR/KW/MCA/196/22-23 dt 13.07.2022

ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.
E-mail : bellarynirmithikendra@yahoo.com Mobile : 9945494157
ಸಂ : [illegible] /2022-23 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 08-07-2022
ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ನಿರ್ವಹಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಐಟಂಗಳಿಗೆ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ / ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರಿಂದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಧರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ. ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಧರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯವನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಧರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು "ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ" [illegible] ಮಹಾವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ ಬಲಗಡೆ, ವಾಲ್ಮೀಕಿ ಭವನ ಹತ್ತಿರ, 1ನೇ ಗೇಟ್, ಕೌಲ್‌ಬಜಾರ್, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಇವರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ತಡವಾಗಿ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತಿಯಾಗುವ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಧರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಸ್ವೀಕೃತಿಯಾದ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಧರಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ / ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊ. 8073879324 ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಐಟಂಗಳ ವಿವರ

Sl.No.	Name of Work	Description	Date & Timing
1	Up-gradation of Joladarashi Rangamandira at Ballari.	a) Auditorium Acoustic b) Sound System c) Stage Curtain System d) State Lighting System e) P/I OF Push Back Seats f) Air Conditioner	14-07-2022 05.30 PM
2	Up-gradation of Shiva Dhyana Gnana Mandira, Bhagavath Geeta Gnana Loka Building, Parvathi Nagar, Ballari.	a) Stalls Fiber Model, Canvas Painting Colour Painting b) UPVC Windows c) Air Conditioner d) Panel Board e) 62.5 KVA Diesel Generator	14-07-2022 05.30 PM
3	District Emergency Operation Centre for constructions, Infrastructure & Equipments	Furniture & Equipments	16-07-2022 05.30 PM

ಸದರಿ ಐಟಂಗಳಿಗೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟತೆ (Specification) ಯನ್ನು http://ballari.nic.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ.

Published by N. Ravi at Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860, Anna Salai, Chennai-600002 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1978/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

When locals took initiative to restore stone inscriptions

Hebbal

■ A stone inscription of 750 C.E., which is undocumented, now the oldest stone inscription in Bengaluru, along with two other documented ones, were on the verge of being lost when a team from The Mythic Society found them. The inscription standing in a drain along the road was being covered using stone aggregates when the team arrived in the nick of time. After much persuasion and local population being taken into confidence, the three inscriptions were removed and placed in an 8thcentury C.E. Ganga-styled Mantap that was built through crowdfunding.

Kodigehalli

■ A documented inscription of 1431 C.E. was standing precariously at the edge of a busy road in Kodigehalli and was on the verge of destruction. A vehicle had even brushed past the stone, which was in front of a vacant site.

The inscription referred to a donation to the temple during the time of solar eclipse. It was shifted to the nearby Kote Anjaneya Temple where it is now mounted on a wall. Locals took interest and have even made a glass case for the inscription.

Agrahara, Jakkur

■ A 1350 C.E. stone inscription met a much feared fate when a tractor rammed into the slab breaking it into two pieces at Agrahara, Jakkur. While the inscription on one side was documented, the other side was not, and they together referred to donation of land to create an agrahara. In early 2022, epigraphy enthusiasts here had a consolation when a conservation team from Mumbai used steel joints and bolts over three days to join the broken parts in a very delicate procedure. With the local citizens' help, the restored stone is now on a platform in nearby Venugopalaswamy temple.

Kalya, Magadi taluk

■ A 1368 C.E. inscription on a conflict resolution issued by Bukkaraya, the Vijayanagar king, to resolve violent clashes between Sri Vaishnavas and Jains remained inside a farm at Kalya in Magadi taluk for many centuries. This is only among the two that have been documented so far, though Bukkaraya had ordered installation of such inscriptions in front of all temples and Basadis in his kingdom. With personal contribution from government officials, T. Pradeep and Bettaswamy Gowda, a beautiful platform for the inscription has been built in the farm land of Shivalingaiah where it was found.

Singapura

■ In the 70s, when a road was being laid in Singapura, a farmer thought an undocumented 1528 C.E. stone inscription would get buried, and brought it to his farm where it stood for nearly five decades. Villagers were aware of the inscription, and in 2021, with the help of locals, the slab was moved to Varadaraja Swamy temple. The village wore a festive atmosphere when The Mythic Society released a volume of "Bengaluru Itihaasa Vaibhava" on Singapura to mark the installation of the inscription and the entire programme attended by over a thousands villagers was funded by the locals.

• PHOTOS: THE MYTHIC SOCIETY, BENGALURU

City's inscriptions: Lost and found

March of time over treasures

The Mythic Society's digitisation project of inscriptions has revealed how Bengaluru's modernisation has erased archaeological riches

A 14th century inscription lying on a drain in Chikkabanavara, and (right) an inscription referring to donation to Sivagange temple in Doddanekkundi . • THE MYTHIC SOCIETY, BENGALURU

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

The relentless march of urbanisation in Bengaluru, over the last century, has cannibalised many markers of its history. Proof of this is what has been thrown up by an ongoing digitisation project to map ancient inscriptions in Old Bengaluru region. Of the 175 inscriptions recorded in the city by the *Epigraphia Carnatica* in 1905, only 110 could be identified in locations mentioned in the publication. In the rural parts of Bengaluru district, of about 225 recorded inscriptions, about 60 have fallen victim to the development that the city has seen in the last two decades.

Apathy and ignorance, combined with rapid urban expansion, have contributed to the loss that has come to light during the ongoing 3D digitisation project of inscriptions taken up by The Mythic Society. The project was launched in January 2021 to digitise the inscriptions in Bengaluru, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural and Ramanagara districts covering an area of around 8,000 square kilometres where about 1,500 inscriptions have been recorded in *Epigraphia Carnatica* Volume 9, Mysore Archaeological Reports (MAR) and other journals.

Victims of modernisation

Among those lost in the urbanisation process include two 8th century C.E. inscriptions in Peenya, four inscriptions dating back to 15th century C.E. in Yashwanthpura, 13th century C.E. inscription in Rajajinagar, 15th century C.E. inscription in Malleswaram, 10 century C.E. inscription in Kengeri, three 13th century C.E. inscriptions in Lingarajapuram and 12th century C.E. inscription in Hongasandra. These were among the inscriptions listed in the 1905 *Epigraphia Carnatica* or the annual Mysore Archaeological Reports (MAR), which now could not be found in the mentioned locations.

While inscriptions on vacant government or private land have been lost due to formation of sites and subsequent developments, stone inscriptions have been lost in road widening too. In Chikkabanavara, where five undocumented inscriptions were found by The Mythic Society team, one was found to be used as a cover for a roadside drain, which has since been shifted to a safer location.

Reckless renovation

In some cases, reckless renovation of ancient temples have led to the loss. For example, during the renovation of Someshwara temple at Kacharakanahalli, modern construction materials were used to replace the stones that had inscriptions dating back to 12th century C.E. and 13th cetury C.E. "Four inscriptions were lost in the temple renovation as old stone slabs were removed. Similarly, in the ongoing renovation work in Someshwara temple at Chikkagubbi, old stones containing 13th century C.E. inscriptions have been replaced," P. L Udaya Kumar, the Director of the society's 3D project, told *The Hindu*.

In Doddanekundi, he pointed out, a stone inscription dating back to 1304 C.E. appears to be waiting to be lost. "The stone is leaning on a tree on the footpath of a busy road. The inscriptions speak of donation to the famous Shivagange temple and mentions the area as Nekundi."

While the project has completed the digitisation work of all the recorded inscriptions in the City, Mr. Udaya Kumar said that only one third of the overall project of covering 1,500 inscriptions has been completed. "As we move forward we expect to find more unreported inscriptions and also report the loss of reported inscriptions. In rural areas, the loss of reported inscription is about 30%. Of about 225 reported inscriptions that we went in search of, over 60 are lost," he said.

Footprints of history traced anew

The team that is revisiting 1,500 inscription locations has found as many as 43 undocumented inscriptions in and around the city

An undocumented 13th century Tamil inscription at Chokkanathaswamy temple in Domlur, and (right) a 750 C.E. hero stone on a vacant site at T. Dasarahalli • THE MYTHIC SOCIETY, BENGALURU

SHARATH S. SRIVATSA
BENGALURU

While one bemoans the loss of heritage, there is also some exciting news for those interested in Bengaluru's local history. A project to digitise inscriptions has found 43 hitherto undocumented inscriptions, throwing fresh light on culture and ethos. Of the 43, as many as 22 have been found in Bengaluru while the rest have been identified in Anekal, Hoskote and Magadi taluks surrounding the city.

As many as 22 new Kannada inscriptions and 21 Tamil inscriptions dating from the 8th century C.E. to 17th century C.E. have been found by the team implementing The Mythic Society's Bengaluru Inscriptions 3D Digital Conservation Project that is revisiting about 1,500 inscription locations in Bengaluru, Bengaluru Rural, Bengaluru Urban and Ramanagara districts.

The last time that the inscriptions were chronicled with description was in Epigraphia Carnatica in 1905, which contains about 1,500 inscriptions in the region. Subsequently, location of many other inscriptions have been reported in Mysore Archaeological Reports, and sporadically in other journals as individuals historians, epigraphy enthusiasts and others found new inscriptions. The findings in Bengaluru, a global tech hub now, has been published in *The Quarterly Journal of the Mythic Society*.

Principal deity of temple

While seven unrecorded inscriptions have been found in the 800-year-old Chokkanathaswamy temple in Domlur, eight Tamil inscriptions of the 13th and 14th century C.E. have been found in Champakadhama Swamy temple at Bannerghatta. Though the surface has worn out making it difficult to read the inscription, the high-resolution 3D imaging has revealed that the latter temple was dedicated to Damodara Perumal as the principal deity then, and Puradaraya Tamattalvar was a significant patron of the temple.

In Chikkabanavara, the restoration of a kalyani yielded four of the five undocumented inscriptions. Of the two undocumented inscriptions reported from Venugopalaswamy temple in Yelahanka, one refers to a Kambha built for an Anjaneya temple though there is no Anjaneya temple in the temple complex now. At Kalya in Magadi taluk – a big Jain religious-trade centre in the past, where 18 inscriptions have been reported before – the project identified eight inscriptions documented for the first time.

Belandur lake's antiquity

Interestingly, the finding of a Durga idol in the precincts of NAL Belur Someshwara temple is a testimony to Belandur lake to be at least 1,300 years old as the worship of Durga beside a lake is a Ganga period practice (5th to 10th century C.E.), the journal noted. From the references of two undocumented inscriptions, the Marasuru Madivala village in Anekal has been estimated to be 1,200 years old.

New inscriptions found at Kumbarahalli, near Hesarghatta, recorded in Kannada and Tamil, show that the 10 C.E. Siddeshwara Temple in the nearby Aivarakandapura had received land donations. Inscriptions related to this had been found at Soladevanahalli earlier too. Incidentally, the temple, built in 1034 C.E., is currently dedicated to Gopalakrishna. "For the first time, locals realised that the temple that they frequent is as old as 1,000 years. They felt excited at finding out the antiquity," Project Director (Hon) P.L. Udaya Kumar said, adding that in many places awareness was being created about their local heritage.

He also said that with the technology aiding better study of the inscriptions, new reading of the recorded inscription is being given in several cases in the light of new information.

Curious children look on while a researcher scans a hero stone in Bannerghatta, and (right) a 1257 C.E. inscription at Champakadama Swamy temple in Bannerghatta being scanned. • THE MYTHIC SOCIETY, BENGALURU

An unpublished inscription found at Paramanahalli; (right) a digital image of an 8th C.E. hero stone found at Marasuru Madivala. • THE MYTHIC SOCIETY, BENGALURU

:: ANURAG TAGAT

Indian Indie's best are back in town

This week, Bengaluru is spoiled for choice when it comes to some of the top Indian independent artists making their way to the city to perform in different formats

The boys are back! (From left) Bloodywood, Parekh & Singh, Raman Negi • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Up first, New Delhi-based folk metal band Bloodywood – who was first popular on YouTube – will be stopping by on July 16 at Fandom at Gilly's Redefined in Koramangala as part of its delectably (and playfully) titled tour, Nine Inch Naans. Performing alongside city metal band Final Surrender, Bloodywood is in phase one of its global domination plans this year. Following its four-city India tour, it will head out to some of the biggest music festivals in the US and Europe between August and October.

The shows come on the back of its releasing its full-length album, *Rakshak* in February, which dialled up on its surging modern metal sound paired with unshakeable Punjabi percussive elements, including a live *dhol* player. Bloodywood rapper Raoul Kerr says, "We're going to be playing all the heavy hitters from the new album *Rakshak* as well as three of the old favourites. It is also the first time we are playing an all-original set so it feels great, the evolution of our sound that was heard on the album will be felt at these shows, but amplified by a thousand judging by our practice sessions."

Kerr anticipates that every show on its India tour is going to be on "another level." It is even more special that Bloodywood are returning to Bengaluru, considering this is where it performed its first live show in 2019. "Those first India shows will always be remembered fondly. Having said that though, both the band and the audience is going to unleash a whole new level of energy on this tour, and you should not miss it for the world." Bloodywood is completed by co-vocalist Jayant Bhadula, guitarist/flautist and producer Karan Katiyar, drummer Vishesh Singh, dhol player Sarthak Pahwa and bassist Roshan Roy.

Also taking place on the same day as Bloodywood's Bengaluru sojourn is the first festival edition of LiveBox, a regular show series started by event and ticketing platform Skillbox. LiveBox Festival will take place on July 16 from 5pm onwards at the indoor ballroom of the Lalit Ashok hotel in Seshadripuram.

The line up includes New Delhi experimental/jazz/waltz/psychedelic act Peter Cat Recording Co., Kolkata dream-pop duo Parekh & Singh, Chennai jazz quartet Jatayu, Bengaluru band Space Is All We Have and the live debut of singer-songwriter Raman Negi, formerly of rock band The Local Train. It is a rare combination of artists who have not performed in the city in a while and Negi remains an important draw.

After a formal announcement that Negi had left The Local Train earlier this year, the artist went on to release two songs – 'Mehroom' and 'Koyla'. For anyone expecting the grandiose rock of The Local Train, it is safe to say that Negi would rather explore his own terrain and different styles. Both singles showcase a groovier, more emotive side to Negi, who sings in Hindi and Urdu with a distinct, instantly recognisable voice.

"I am really excited to take my solo show on the road. This is going to be my first gig in years and to play a brand new set with all new music is going to be a good start for my new journey," he says. To start off, Negi will perform a special acoustic set at the day-long festival. "People will get to hear a good chunk of my album that I have planned to release later this year. It is going to be amazing to be on the stage again and I am really happy to be a part of this amazing line up."

The festival also marks the return of Parekh & Singh, who have been away from performing since the pandemic, although they have offered up a few home concerts and livestream shows. The duo recently released a music video for its song 'Sleepyhead', while Peter Cat Recording Co. will perform after a break of a few months in the city. Get set for a day of wide-ranging indie music from formidable names in the country.

Bloodywood and Final Surrender perform at Fandom at Gilly's Redefined, Koramangala on July 16. Tickets: ₹1,179 onwards + ₹499 cover charge, available on Insider.in

LiveBox Festival takes place on July 16 at The Lalit Ashok Hotel, from 5pm onwards. Tickets: ₹2,799, available on Skillboxes.com

Meet you in the court Pickleball is growing in popularity • JOHAN SATHYADAS

In a pickle? Play ball

Combining the elements of three racquet sports, this game is finding many takers

:: SRINIVASA RAMANUJAM

What is pickleball?

It's a question that K Mohit Kumar gets often. It's a question he loves answering.

Even as he skilfully chops the ball on a windy Saturday morning at the recently-held South India Pickleball Premier League at Chennai's Hotfut SPR Sports, Mohit answers questions from curious onlookers. He was introduced to the sport in 2019 through a family friend visiting from the US, where it is a fast-growing sport.

For the uninitiated, pickleball combines elements of tennis, table tennis and badminton. Played both indoors and outdoors with a paddle and a ball, the sport can be picked up within a matter of hours and is an effective workout. Though it is relatively-new in India, it has gained a lot of traction recently, especially in this post-lockdown phase. "It is also ideal for networking especially if you're new to a city," says 36-year-old Mohit, general secretary of the Tamil Nadu Pickleball Association, which organised the League drawing more than 70 players, with aspirants coming in from Bengaluru, Kanchipuram and Shivamogga.

Shuttle service

You do not need to have played any sport before to try your hand at pickleball, but previous trysts with racquet sports do help. Sunnidhi Jain, a student of Class XII in Chinmaya Vidyalaya, can vouch for that. Previously a professional badminton player who represented the State, Sunnidhi shifted loyalties when her cousin introduced her to pickleball a year ago. "Pickleball is not as intense or physically tiring as badminton. My sporting background helped me pick it up fast, as the court sizes are the same in both sports," says Sunnidhi.

While Sunnidhi is approaching the sport competitively, there are many amateurs who play the sport with their families for fun as well. "We see a lot of fathers and daughters playing, as well as players from all age groups," beams Rajath Kankar MR, general secretary of the Indian Pickleball Association, which has 16 Indian states under its wing and hopes to increase this to 28 by this year.

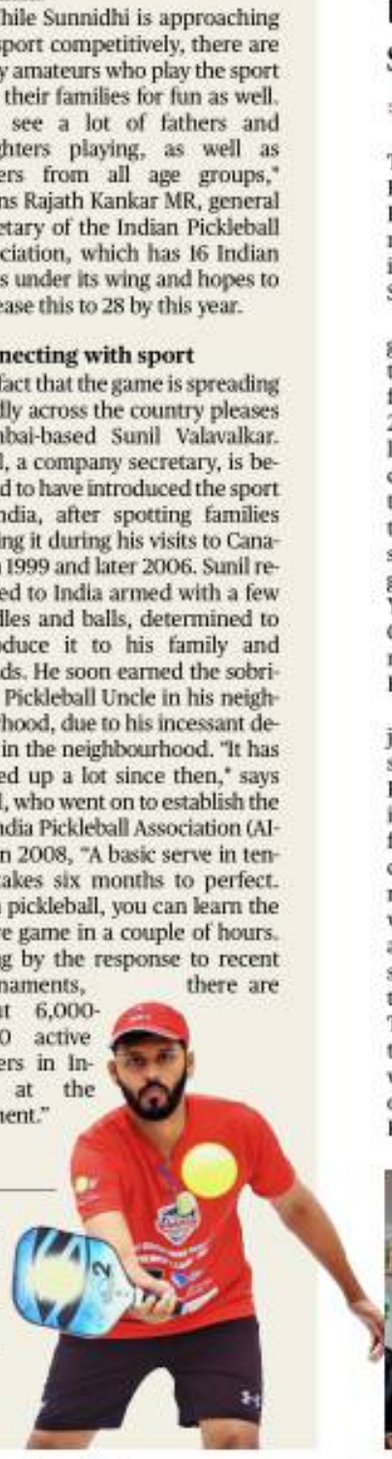
Connecting with sport

The fact that the game is spreading rapidly across the country pleases Mumbai-based Sunil Valavalkar. Sunil, a company secretary, is believed to have introduced the sport in India, after spotting families playing it during his visits to Canada in 1999 and later 2006. Sunil returned to India armed with a few paddles and balls, determined to introduce it to his family and friends. He soon earned the sobriquet Pickleball Uncle in his neighbourhood, due to his incessant demos in the neighbourhood. "It has picked up a lot since then," says Sunil, who went on to establish the All India Pickleball Association (AIPA) in 2008, "A basic serve in tennis takes six months to perfect. With pickleball, you can learn the entire game in a couple of hours. Going by the response to recent tournaments, there are about 6,000-7,000 active players in India at the moment."

THE GAME

Pickleball incorporates components of tennis, table tennis, and badminton into one. The standard court size is the same as a badminton court.

The game is played with a paddle. The ball is about the size of a tennis ball but made of plastic and with holes, to help counter windy conditions.



'Content over image'

The veteran actor returns to the small screen with *Olavina Nildana* after 10 years

:: SHILPA ANANDRAJ

Ashok was one of the reigning stars of the '70s and '80s, serenading some of the top heroines of his time and gave many hits with Arthi in films such as Puttanna Kanagal's *Ranganayaki*, *Ganeshana Mahime* and *Thayiya Madillalli*. Ashok is back playing a grandfather in Kannada web-series, *Olavinda Nildana*, created by Shruti Naidu and Ramesh Indira.

"I used to act in many television serials in the past. I found it tiring to be on the sets with make-up at 8 am and working late hours," says Ashok. "I decided to take a break and realised a decade had passed when Shruti approached me for this role. She insisted I act in this series and said the role was written with me in mind, and here I am."

FRIDAY REVIEW

The actor believes television has grown by leaps and bounds. "It is a more intimate space as the story and characters are brought into our homes which the family watches together. For cinema, the viewer needs to make time, spend money and step out. On television, the characters become like family."

Ashok earlier acted in series such as *Ardhya Sathya* and *Gupta Gamini*.

A science student, he switched lanes when he was bitten by the acting bug. He studied acting at the Madras Film Institute, where he and Rajnikanth were classmates and their shenanigans are remembered fondly by their peers.

Ashok made his debut in the Kannada film *Hennu Samsarada Kannu* opposite Sridevi. "That was in 1975. I was 24 and Sridevi was about 17 or 18. It was such a joy to see that young girl grow into a great actor, her demise at such a young age was tragic. *Hennu Samsarada Kannu*, was made in the last days of the black-and-white era."

Ashok says, his choice of role was driven by conviction. "Be it *Sanadi Appanna*, *Bhagyavantaru* or *Thayiya Madidalli*, I had to be convinced of the character's motivation and behaviour. I would put myself in their shoes. It was always about the content. When *Ganeshana Mahime* was offered to me, I was not convinced about why the character was an an atheist. We create an incident which led to the character hating Lord Ganesh and how the character transforms through the film."

Having worked for over four decades in the Kannada film industry, Ashok remarks on the changes he has seen. "Those days, we would get together to make cinema, but today it is just a 'shoot'. There is no involvement. Those days we would be involved in a film right from its inception, today, it is a vast business. I feel sometimes it becomes impersonal."

Ashok is looking forward to the release of his next film, *Achar and Co.* "It is a Puneeth Rajkumar film, with an all-woman team, from the director and cinematographer to the composer. It has been a great experience to work with them."

Olavinda Nildana is currently streaming on Voot Select

Local colours brighten KSR station

:: OLIVIA DEBROY

The Krantivira Sangolli Rayanna Railway station (Majestic, KSR Bengaluru) has launched a two-month handicraft exhibition on its premises which will run till September 5.

This exhibition is being organised as a part of the, One Station, One Product initiative, put forth in the Union Budget of 2022-23 and intends to promote locally produced goods and crafts by creating channels for their presentation and sale throughout the division. The 11 stations covered by this programme are KSR Bengaluru City, Yeshwantpur, Malleshwaram, Cantonment, Hosur, Dharmapuri, Kengeri, Krishnarajapuram, Ramanagar, and Bangarpet.

A number of handmade objects from Channapatna such as spinning tops, small busts of Buddha, home decoration items, wooden car seat covers, flutes, toy cars, jute show pieces,wind chimes, spoons, earrings and bracelets, ranging between ₹30 to ₹400, can be seen at the stall. "All the items at the stall are made of wood, none of them has any plastic parts. These hand-crafted items help the artisans support their family with daily wages," says Balaji P, owner of the handicrafts shop at KSR station.

Paint at Social

This session is called Paint with Me and will be held at Church Street SOCIAL on July17, 12pm onwards. Harshita - @brush_es on Instragram - will conduct the session, which will include acrylic painting. She will teach you to paint on a canvas board and will be painting a starry/galaxy sky. Material will be provided for the session. Fee is ₹1,100.

Log on to insider.in to book your place.

Back to vinyls

Head towards the Record Room on July 17 to experience the old-school jukebox days on vinyl. You Pick, We Play! is the theme of the evening, where your choice of songs will be played on good old fashioned vinyls between 3pm and 7pm. The record room has over 300 vinyl across genres and you can bring your own vinyl and play it there too.

Call 8792107222/ 8792108222 to reserve your place.

Agree with High Court remark on PSI recruitment scam: CID

Court had said 'it's an act of terror on society and an instance of fence eating the crop'; State Public Prosecutor says scam has interlinks with a huge network of people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State Public Prosecutor on Thursday told the High Court of Karnataka that the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) completely agrees with the remarks made by the court that the Police Sub-Inspector (PSI) recruitment scam is nothing but "an act of terror on society and an instance of fence eating the crop."

With iron hand

"The court has to deal with the accused persons in this case with an iron hand as this is a crime involving police officers, who were entrusted with the responsibility of protecting the law, indulging in most heinous crime, and the aspirants to the disciplined posts of PSIs...," State Public Prosecutor V.S. Hegde told the court during the hearing on the petitions seeking bail filed by some of the accused persons in the scam.

Justice H.P. Sandesh, who is hearing the petition, during earlier hearings on the petitions, had observed that "the act of indulging in selecting the persons by malpractice and who have committed fraud in the process of PSI recruitment and manipulation of the documents amounts to an act of terror to the society..." as it impacted around 50,000 aspirants.

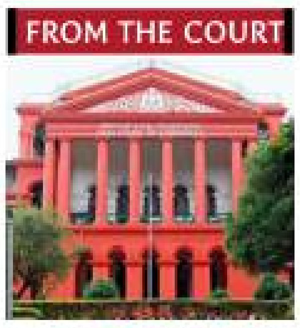
Responding to the court's earlier observations that the aspirants to the posts of PSI, who made genuine efforts to succeed in the examination, are real 'victims', and both the court and the government need to protect these 'victims', Mr. Hegde said the court's observation has touched the sensitivity of State's authorities, who are taking steps to prevent such recruitment scams in future.

The SPP also told the court that it is not a single incident but a scam having interlinks with a huge network of people, involving the candidates, the police officers, and the middlemen. The CID is also tracking the money trail in the scam and has so far seized ₹2.5 crore, the SPP said. Stating that the investigation is being supervised directly by the Director General of Police (CID and Economic Offences), Mr. Hegde said forensic reports clearly indicates that OMR sheets of some candidates were tampered with in Bengaluru and certain candidates in some examination centres in Kalaburagi got answers while illegally using sophisticated Bluetooth devices.

Warning

Meanwhile, the court took serious view of the conduct of certain individuals, who joined to watch the court proceedings through video conference by wearing banians, lying down on cots, etc. Such nuisance cannot be tolerated, the court warned. When a candidate sought to air his grievances, Justice Sandesh told him that court cannot entertain around 50,000 candidates like him while making it clear that only those who file application can make submissions.

FROM THE COURT



'Police officers have deleted data in their phones'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Criminal Investigation Department on Thursday told the High Court of Karnataka that Amrit Paul, Additional Director General of Police, and other police officers arrested in the scam have deleted data in their mobile phones by formatting the devices.

State Public Prosecutor said that no information is available in their phones and the CID has a huge task of retrieving deleted data.

Mobile phone data, including call details, SMSs, Whatsapp and other messaging app of all the accused persons are key for establishing nexus as mobile is the key device used by the accused to hatch conspiracy to commit the crime, the State Public Prosecutor said.

Rice millers to shut down against 5% GST on unbranded food products

APMC Yard in Bengaluru too will remain closed

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

A file photo of a rice mill in Raichur. Industry insiders allege that the move will lead to inflation, make small retailers in the unorganised sector uncompetitive, and affect farmers.

Rice millers across the State and Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Yard, Yeshwanthpur, Bengaluru, will shut down on Friday, as a protest against the Union government's decision to levy 5% GST on all packaged and labelled food products, even if unbranded, essentially covering most of the essential food items. The Finance Ministry issued notification of the new GST rules on Thursday.

The move will lead to inflation, make small retailers in the unorganised sector uncompetitive, and even affect farmers, industry insiders allege. Farmers also petitioned Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, a member of the GST Council, against the 5% GST on food products.

Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, vice-president, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and a foodgrain merchant, said post the GST regime in 2017, a majority of brands went unbranded to avoid coming under the tax net. "Today, most of what I sell in the shop is unbranded. In an attempt to bring these under the tax net, the government has imposed a blanket 5% GST on all packed and labelled food items, without understanding the market clearly. Now this will lead to a 5% price hike on almost all food articles, burdening the consumer," he said.

Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation for June 2022 has been 7.01%, just marginally low from 7.04% in May. The new 5% GST rule will directly contribute to food inflation, industry insiders say.

This has raised concerns over how it will affect the poor. "The impact of the pandemic, high inflation and joblessness are already severe and it is evident in stress on nutrition observed during recent field trips to Vijayapura district. Many of the poor have mostly given up on vegetables and pulses, eating a very watery sambar or eating rice or roti with gunpowder. Now, 5% GST on most food items will further put pressure on nutrition security," said nutritionist Sylvia Krapagam. Shivakumar S, Secretary, Karnataka State Rice Millers' Association, said 5% GST on unbranded packed food will also lead to reduction in the selling price of farmers in an attempt to maintain competitive prices in the market. Federation of State Farmers' Organisation petitioned Mr. Bommai on Thursday demanding a roll back of the 5% GST on food items.

Several retailers also fear the new rule will make them uncompetitive. "Since the new rule is applicable for wholesale also, all retailers will have to pay 5% GST. While the organised supermarkets will be able to reclaim tax credit, the kirana stores, that are not tech-savvy and don't issue bills, will end up passing on the 5% GST to the customers, making our shops uncompetitive in the market. We will be wiped out in a few years. The move will further lead to consolidation of the corporate hold over the food sector," Rajashekhar, who runs a kirana store at Vidyaranyapura said.

GST to apply to wholesale as well

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The press statement issued by Press Information Bureau (PIB) following the 47th meeting of the GST Council in Chandigarh said GST exemption scope was decided to be revised to exclude from it "prepackaged and pre-labelled retail pack in terms of Legal Metrology Act.".

However, the final notification of the new GST rules issued by the Ministry of Finance on Thursday, only says "prepackaged and labelled" and drops the word "retail", enlarging the scope of GST manifolds, trader community rues.

"This essentially applies GST to almost all foodgrains in the wholesale market too, as no product can be unpacked in the wholesale market. Even an unbranded gunnysack of rice or pulses will be taxed. This will lead to 5% food inflation across the board," Ramesh Chandra Lahoti, vice-president, FKCCI and leading foodgrain merchant, said.

Section 2 (I) of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009, defines "pre-packed commodity" as "a commodity which without the purchaser being present is placed in a package of whatever nature, whether sealed or not, so that a product contained therein has a predetermined quantity".

State to reintroduce Bhoochetana scheme for protecting soil health

It focuses on ensuring efficient utilisation of fertilizers and nutrients

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shobha Karandlaje; Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai; Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Mansukh Mandaviya; Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar; Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Kailash Choudhary, and Karnataka Minister for Agriculture B.C. Patil at a workshop of Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers in Bengaluru on Thursday.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday announced that Bhoochetana programme of improving soil health will be reintroduced in Karnataka.

Participating in a two-day workshop of Agriculture and Horticulture Ministers from various States being organised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister recalled that Bhoochetana scheme had been started by the then Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa in 2009.

He said such a scheme that focused on protection of soil health and improvement of crop yield through proper management of nutrients and fertilizers, was needed now to ensure efficient utilisation of fertilizers and nutrients.

He stressed the need for integrating traditional farming practices with modern farming methods for better results. "While traditional farming helps in protecting soil health and environment, modern methods go a long way in improving yields," he noted.

Condition of farmers

He expressed concern that despite taking care of the country's food security, the condition of farmers had not improved. Stressing the need to improve the financial condition of farmers, he said secondary agriculture that focuses on using land for multiple activities was the only way forward to double farmers' incomes.

There was a dire need to focus on comprehensive method of secondary agriculture, he said, while pointing out that Karnataka has already set up a secondary agriculture directorate.

Efforts were going on in Karnataka to integrate different agricultural, horticultural and veterinary sciences universities through a common platform for proper coordination for research efforts, he said.

Union Minister for Agriculture Narendra Singh Thomar stressed the need for digitisation of various agricultural practices and increasing the number of FPOs (farmers' producers' organisations) for helping farmers.

Union Minister for Health, Chemicals and Fertilizers Mansukh Mandaviya expressed concern that the present level of subsidy being given by the Union government to various fertilizer manufacturing companies was equivalent of the annual budget size of a State like Karnataka.

DKS attends 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' meet in Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Top Congress leaders, including Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee president D.K. Shivakumar, on Thursday, participated in a meeting in Delhi to deliberate on the party's 'Bharat Jodo Yatra' slated to begin from October 2.

All-India Congress Committee general secretaries, in-charges of various States and PCC presidents, attended the meeting organised by Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal at the party headquarters.

The Congress leaders had discussed the upcoming organisational programmes of the party, including organisational elections, which are underway, sources said.

The march, starting from October 2, would be flagged off from Kanyakumari and end in Kashmir. The preparation for it has already started.

A committee led by former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Digvijay Singh had been formed to plan the ambitious yatra that aimed to spread the message of unity across India and mark the Congress's pan-Indian march.

Government's ₹5,000 Kashi Yatra subsidy scheme comes into effect

Bommai distributes cheques to beneficiary pilgrims

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

> **The Kashi Vishwanath Corridor has been developed in such a way that pilgrims can walk directly from Ganga Ghat to Vishwantha temple.**
> BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
> Chief Minister

The State government's ₹5,000 Kashi Yatra subsidy scheme has come into effect on Thursday.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai launched the scheme formally by distributing the subsidy cheques to the beneficiary pilgrims at a simple ceremony here.

Speaking at the function organised by the Muzrai Department, Mr. Bommai noted air, rail and bus connectivity to Varanasi and said there was a huge rise in the number of pilgrims visiting Kashi. "Today we are distributing subsidy cheques to 10 pilgrims. In the coming days, it would be transferred directly through the DBT system for pilgrims," Mr. Bommai said.

"The banks of river Ganga have been cleaned. About 23 ghats have been renovated. The Kashi Vishwanath Corridor has been developed in such a way that the pilgrims could walk directly from the Ganga Ghat to Vishwantha temple," he said. Apart from providing subsidy, the State government has made arrangements for safe and comfortable journey by operating a separate train, accommodation facilities at Kashi to make the pilgrimage a pleasant experience, Mr. Bommai said.

'One district, one skill' programme launched

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Thursday launched 'one district, one skill' programme aimed at rejuvenating the traditional skills practiced in Karnataka as part of World Youth Skills Day event on Thursday.

The event was organised by the Karnataka Skill Development Corporation. The corporation has identified various traditional arts and skills of every district in the State and this programme is designed for technological upgradation and design intervention of these special skills.

The Chief Minister also launched e-Kaushalya programme, a free-of-cost learning management programme for graduates from engineering, BCA and management.

BJP to hold brainstorming session with prominent leaders today

Party is expected to discuss preparations for Assembly polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

> **Issues related to strengthening the party organisation and preparations for the next Assembly elections are the main issues that would be discussed.**
> BASAVARAJ BOMMAI
> Chief Minister

The Bharatiya Janata Party's Karnataka unit is holding a brainstorming session of its prominent leaders on Friday to chalk out a roadmap for preparations for the next Assembly elections.

About 50 leaders, including party national general secretary Arun Singh, who is in-charge of Karnataka, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, party State president Nalin Kumar Kateel, and party State core committee members are participating in the session.

Preliminary discussion

Ahead of the session, Mr. Bommai held a preliminary discussion with Mr. Singh and other senior leaders on Thursday.

Mr. Bommai told mediapersons that issues related to strengthening the party organisation and preparations for the next Assembly elections are the main issues that would be discussed. However, there was a possibility of other issues too coming up, he added.

It is being said that the party Central leadership is keen on improving the coordination between the party organisation and the government ahead of polls.

While the implementation of various welfare measures listed in the State Budget have begun, the party organisation too is planning to take up several outreach programmes to create awareness about the achievements of both the Union and State governments. The session is expected to take a look at ways of achieving this.

New postings

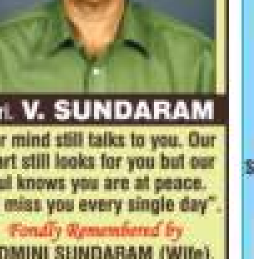
An organisational rejig too is on cards as the term of the present office-bearers including Mr. Kateel is about to end. The party is likely to soon appoint a new State president.

A section of the party leaders are hoping that the session would also discuss appointments to boards and corporations to woo party workers ahead of elections. The government recently cancelled all political appointments to boards and corporations to make way for fresh appointments.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

SECOND ANNIVERSARY
Remembrance



Shri. V. SUNDARAM

"Our mind still talks to you. Our heart still looks for you but our soul knows you are at peace. We miss you every single day".

Fondly Remembered by
PADMINI SUNDARAM (Wife), Pradeep & Kavitha, Jayanth & Savitri
98412 91126, 96000 90064

DEATH

K CHANDRAN NAIR (87), Retired Canteen Cleaner, The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 14-07-2022. Address: 2/62, Murugathaman Kovil Street, Giri Gouri Nagar, Manapakkam, Chennai-600125. Contact: 9789970834

DEATH

Mr. E.K.Krishnan (85 yrs)
S/O Kallidaikurichi EKRM Krishna Iyer
Formerly of Unity forgings

Attained Shivaloka prapthi on 14 July '22

Grieved by:
K.M. Lakshmi (Papa) & family
044 24672461/ 8807582543

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

காமராஜர் பிறந்தநாள்
"கல்வி எழுச்சி நாள்"

கர்மவீரர் காமராஜர்
(15.07.1903 - 02.10.1975)

வேளாங்கண்ணி பள்ளிகள் குழுமம்

IN BRIEF

Mani's comments draw UDF's ire in Kerala

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Congress-led United Democratic Front (UDF) disrupted the Kerala Assembly on Thursday evening accusing CPI(M) legislator M.M. Mani of disparaging K.K. Rema, MLA, and making light of her widowhood and the martyrdom of her husband and RMP leader, T.P. Chandrasekharan who, the Opposition said, "fell to the knives of CPI(M) assassins" at Onchiyam in 2012.

HC dismisses Monson's bail plea in rape case

KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Thursday dismissed the bail petition filed by Monson Mavunkal, a fake antiquities dealer, in a case related to the rape of a woman staffer at his office. The prosecution case was that the survivor was raped on different days from January 11, 2020 to September 24, 2021, at the petitioner's house.

Dismissing his bail petition, Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas observed that the petitioner was admittedly involved in various crimes, including three cases of rape.

Aid announced for flood-hit families

RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM

Home Minister Taneti Vanita on Thursday announced that the State government would release ₹2,000 aid to each family that is affected by the Godavari floods. Ms. Vanita inspected the evacuation operation at Mulakallanka island, and assured timely assistance and response from the government to tackle the floods. "The Chief Minister has already directed the officials concerned to release ₹2,000 aid to all the families rehabilitated in relief camps," she said.

Rising Godavari cuts off Bhadrachalam

Over 10,000 evacuated from nine mandals; water level touches 62.2 feet, the highest in three decades

P. SRIDHAR
BHADRADRI KOTHAGUDEM

More than 10,500 people from 62 flood-affected villages were evacuated to 48 relief camps in the Bhadrachalam Agency and elsewhere in Bhadradri Kothagudem district as water level in the Godavari peaked to the highest level of 62.2 feet – nearly 10 feet above the danger mark of 53 ft – in the past decade and a half, at Bhadrachalam in Telangana on Thursday evening. The river continued to rise alarmingly, posing a threat of heavy deluge all along its course.

The river, aided by enormous inflows from all the major and medium irrigation projects in the upper reaches in north Telangana, continued to rise menacingly at the temple town late on Thursday evening. A massive volume of 19.48 lakh cusecs of floodwater was flowing at Bhadrachalam downstream, when the reports came in, triggering concerns that the river may cross the 70-ft level, the highest in the past three decades.

Trapped by water: The temple town of Bhadrachalam in Telangana, surrounded by floodwater on Thursday. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Godavari touched its highest ever level of 75.6 feet at Bhadrachalam on August 16, 1986, leaving a trail of destruction in and around the temple town. On August 24, 1990, the river rose to its second highest level of 70.8 feet.

Villages hit

The river wreaked havoc in villages across the Dummugudem and Charla mandals submerging vast tracks of agricultural fields, cutting off road link to hundreds of villages, flooding houses in low-lying areas and throwing normal life out of gear in the entire Bhadrachalam Agency. Power supply in almost all villages in Charla and Dummugudem mandals was disconnected on Thursday to avoid tripping of power transmission lines after several electric poles and substations were flooded by the swirling flood waters in the riverside villages.

The flood fury has resulted in snapping of road connectivity between Telangana's Bhadrachalam Agency and neighbouring Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Perhaps for the first time after the devastating floods in the Godavari in 1986, the bridge was closed for traffic, making the temple town out of bounds for outsiders for the next 48 hours.

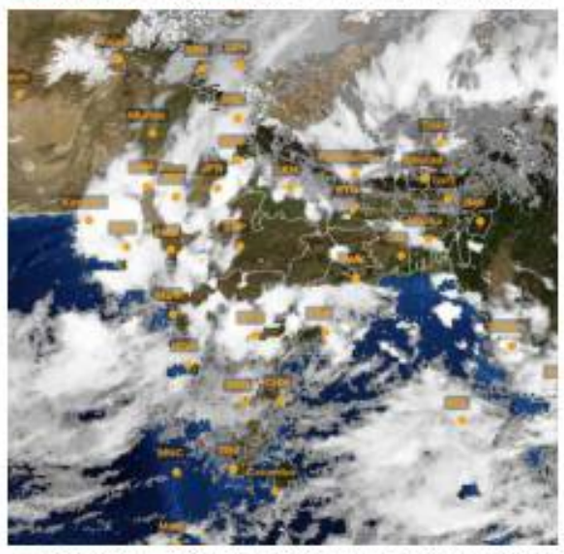
In view of the rapid rise in the water level in the Godavari, the district administration imposed Section 144 in Bhadrachalam town and also in Burgampahad mandal.

Collector D. Anudeep on Thursday visited the relief camps in the temple town and oversaw the food and other arrangements.

He appealed to people to extend cooperation to the official machinery to help tide over the flood threat and prevent loss of life and property.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Saurashtra & Kutch, Himachal Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Jharkhand, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	37.1	27.9	Kozhikode	18	29.8	24.0
Ahmedabad	–	32.0	26.5	Kurnool	1	30.7	23.2
Aizawl	–	32.1	23.0	Lucknow	–	39.6	30.4
Allahabad	–	39.2	30.5	Madurai	–	37.0	22.6
Bengaluru	2	25.0	19.5	Mangaluru	68	27.8	22.1
Bhopal	46	31.0	22.2	Mumbai	95	27.8	24.5
Bhubaneswar	4.3	30.9	25.4	Mysuru	12	26.4	20.0
Chandigarh	14	33.8	27.3	New Delhi	–	38.4	28.4
Chennai	2	35.8	27.5	Patna	–	38.0	29.0
Coimbatore	0.6	30.1	22.4	Port Blair	1	30.3	25.8
Dehradun	0.5	34.3	24.2	Puducherry	–	34.8	26.1
Gangtok	8.6	23.7	17.9	Pune	66.3	23.8	20.1
Goa	41	28.4	23.6	Raipur	16	31.2	24.0
Guwahati	3	38.1	25.7	Ranchi	14	29.0	22.6
Hubballi	–	24.0	21.0	Shillong	–	28.3	19.0
Hyderabad	4	26.6	21.3	Shimla	28	28.7	20.5
Imphal	–	31.1	22.2	Srinagar	9	22.4	17.3
Jaipur	3	34.5	25.5	Thiruvananthapuram	6	30.0	24.1
Kochi	0.2	29.2	25.8	Tiruchi	–	35.3	27.0
Kohima	–	32.0	17.5	Vijayawada	0.6	32.2	26.0
Kolkata	9	33.2	27.0	Visakhapatnam	–	30.8	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — Yesterday

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	40	.19	.33	41	69	
Bengaluru	9	.21	.21	73	106	
Chennai	4	.13	.85	18	45	
Delhi	10	.22	.59	142	115	
Hyderabad	4	3	.75	22	37	
Kolkata	13	.13	.15	26	38	
Lucknow	–	.63	.70	82	104	
Mumbai	–	.11	100	29	43	
Pune	–	.16	.63	25	21	
Visakhapatnam	16	.40	.22	37	–	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Kochi, Kerala recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 145 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Davanagere, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 11

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

'Centre's reply to ESZ issue positive'

Kerala Minister says State likely to take a decision on filing review petition soon

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

The State government is likely to take a decision on whether to file a modification or review petition to circumvent the Supreme Court order to impose an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ) within a 1-km radius of national parks and wildlife reserves on Sunday.

This was announced after Minister for Forest A.K. Saseendran met Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav in New Delhi on Thursday to seek the Centre's intervention to resolve the deadlock over the buffer zone issue.

> **The Minister [Bhupender Yadav] responded positively to the concerns raised by the government. He informed us that the issue is not confined to Kerala alone, but a common issue affecting other States too**
>
> A.K. SASEENDRAN
> Minister of Forests, Kerala

"The Minister responded positively to the concerns raised by the government. He informed us that the issue is not confined to Kerala alone, but a common issue affecting other States too," he said.

Mr. Saseendran said the Principal Secretary, Forest, and the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Wildlife will hold discussions with the Advocate-General to decide on whether to file a review or modification petition before the apex court.

The Union government is learnt to have taken a position that the States concerned can approach the Supreme Court seeking relief on the buffer zone issue.

Kerala had requested the Centre to exempt population centres from the mandated zone.

He reiterated that the order had no bearing on the Supreme Court directive on establishing a 1-km ESZ around wildlife sanctuaries and other protected areas. It would also not hurt the State's prospects when it approaches the Supreme Court with a modification petition and the Central Empowered Committee for exemptions, according to the Minister.

CM Stalin hospitalised for observation

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Two days after testing positive for COVID-19, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin was admitted to a private hospital at Alwarpet, Chennai, on Thursday for medical investigation and close monitoring.

According to the press statement issued by Kauvery Hospital, Mr. Stalin "has been admitted for investigation and observation for Covid-related symptoms".

On Tuesday, he tested positive for the infection and isolated himself. In a social media post, Mr. Stalin had said he felt tired and underwent a test.

Churned lake

Toxic waste: Single-use plastic and other garbage dumped in the Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad have been washed ashore following incessant rain over the past few days. The waste lies uncleared on Thursday. • G. RAMAKRISHNA

'Vaccination prevents deaths, masking prevents infection'

V. GEETANATH
HYDERABAD

Vaccination prevents deaths, masking prevents infection. Omicron variants are infecting people who had received two doses and a booster shot, but this does not mean that vaccination is of no use in the battle against COVID-19, says Indian Institute of Public Health-Hyderabad Director Dr. G.V.S. Murthy.

Some vaccines, especially the m-RNA vaccines have protected against Omicron infections to an extent but no vaccine has provided 100% protection. However, people infected with other variants earlier and got primary immunisation or booster after the first infection, have shown higher antibody levels and protection against Omicron, he explains.

Recent studies have also shown that the protection

G.V.S. Murthy

against Omicron among previously vaccinated adolescents and young adults is much better compared to older individuals. This has been reported with many of the currently available vaccines. What is also evident is that even where massive outbreaks of Omicron variants have been reported, deaths have been very low compared to the previous variants, especially the Delta variant which caused havoc in India, he points out.

In this second part of a recent exclusive interaction, Dr. Murthy said that deaths have been reported mostly among the unvaccinated people.

The virus or its future variants will attack those not protected with greater alacrity than the rest of the population. Since a significant proportion of adults have been vaccinated or 'boosted', efforts should be made to immunise young adults, adolescents and children quickly so as not to expose them to an unpredictable variant in the future, he says. Dr. Murthy advocates mask use guidelines be enforced when cases are rising or during an outbreak, but its effort should be on the part of individuals and community leaders to educate on mask use rather than imposition of penalties by the government as they are counter-productive in the long run.

Jagan seeks ₹6,000 cr. for Polavaram

STAFF REPORTER
VIJAYAWADA

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has instructed the officials of the Andhra Pradesh Water Resources Department to mobilise ₹6,000 crore from the Central government on an ad-hoc basis for expediting the construction of the Polavaram project. This amount is over and above the ₹2,900 crore that the Centre owes to the State towards reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by it on the national project.

Addressing a review meeting on the impact of floods on the Polavaram project and the status of pending irrigation projects, at his camp office on Thursday, Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy said the officials should secure ₹6,000 crore on an ad-hoc basis rather than as component-wise reimbursement, to speed up the project work, and directed the officials to pay special attention to the head works and connectivity between its right and left canals.

Veligonda project

Mr. Jagan Mohan Reddy instructed the officials to complete the second tunnel of the Veligonda project by the end of 2023.

The officials told him that the Vamsadhara project would be ready for inauguration in October. They added that the Nellore and Mekapati Goutham Reddy Sangam barrage works were set for inauguration by the third week of August.

The Chief Minister directed the officials to speed up the construction of the Uttarandhra Sujala Sravanti, Mahendratanaya, Tarakaramathirtha Sagar, Gajapathinagaram branch canal, Joladarasi, Rajolibanda, Kundu lift and Vedavati projects.

Letter from OPS under consideration: Speaker

Legislative Assembly Speaker M. Appavu says no communication has been received from AIADMK as yet

DENNIS S. JESUDASAN
CHENNAI

Former Chief Minister O. Panneerselvam has submitted a representation to the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Speaker not to disturb the composition of the AIADMK Legislature Party, on the basis of any communication he may receive from anyone.

Mr. Panneerselvam and two other legislators R.Vaithilingam and P.H. Manoj Pandian were on July 11 expelled from the AIADMK by its general council. Mr. Panneerselvam has challenged the validity of the general council meeting in the court and before the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Addressing journalists in the Secretariat-cum-Assembly complex in Fort St. George campus, Speaker M. Appavu acknowledged receipt of "a plea" from Mr. Panneerselvam on Tuesday. Without revealing the content of the plea, he said, "It is under my consideration. No decision has been taken as yet." Asked if any representation has been received from AIADMK interim general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami, the Speaker replied in the negative.

To a query if there would be any change in the seating plan if there was a plea from the AIADMK, the Speaker said he has received no other plea except that of Mr. Panneerselvam.

As per Assembly records now, Mr. Panneerselvam is the AIADMK's deputy floor leader in the House and seated second in order in the opposition benches next to Mr. Palaniswami, the Leader of the Opposition.

A source close to Mr. Panneerselvam told *The Hindu* "a request not to change the office-bearers of the AIADMK Legislature Party" was made to the Speaker on the grounds that litigations in this regard were pending before the judiciary. Besides, Mr. Panneerselvam remained party's coordinator "as per records of the Election Commission of India presently".

Meanwhile, Mr. Appavu, to another query on the Bills adopted by the Assembly but pending before the Raj Bhavan for Governor's decision, said some of them have been given assent and some have not been. As for the Bill seeking NEET exemption, Mr. Appavu said they were of the "belief" that it has been forwarded from the Raj Bhavan. He maintained he was not aware of the contents of the Raj Bhavan's response on the NEET Bill to an application filed under the RTI Act.

When asked whether any reminders have been sent to the Raj Bhavan over the pending Bills, Mr. Appavu replied in the negative but maintained that as per the tradition, when Bills are adopted by the House they are given assent or forwarded further by the Governor as soon as possible. "In some countries, if a Bill is adopted and not given assent within 15 days or a month, they are deemed to have been given assent," he pointed out.

"This is a House of representatives elected by the people to make laws. It has got powers. I think if the Governor fails to give assent to the Bills adopted by the House immediately or fails to forward it further, it is an act of boycotting the people. Because, they have been elected by the people. The insult is not on the Legislature but to the people. It is a big insult to the people," Mr. Appavu argued.

To a query that of the 21 Bills sent earlier for assent, only 11 were pending presently, Mr. Appavu said: "Whether it is 11 or 10 or five or one or two, if a Bill goes from the Assembly, their duty is to give assent or forward it above, as the case may be. There are rules in the Assembly. We hope that they will read the rules and act accordingly."

Breach of privilege motion against Pinarayi

Cong. says he misled the Assembly

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Speaker M.B. Rajesh has sought Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's response to Congress legislator Mathew Kuzhalnadan's breach of privilege motion.

Mr. Kuzhalnadan based the motion on his allegation that Mr. Vijayan had misled the House when it sought answers about his daughter's business associate, ostensibly to explore whether there was any conflict of interest in certain appointments made by the previous Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.

The Opposition had accused the alleged business associate of Mr. Vijyan's daughter of exercising a say in the appointment of the UAE diplomatic baggage gold smuggling case accused, Swapna Suresh, in a public-funded organisation.

The accusation had come against the backdrop of a similar allegation by Swapna, who had recently publicly turned sour on Mr. Vijayan and his family.

Mr. Kuzhalnadan raised the accusation during an Opposition-initiated adjournment motion seeking the government's nod for a CBI inquiry into the allegations against Mr. Vijayan and his family by Swapna. Mr. Vijayan had called it a blatant lie and asked Mr. Kuzhalnadan not to drag families into the cut and thrust of politics.

Fleeing, quitting

With Gotabaya quitting, new leadership should heed people's aspirations in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka's President Gotabaya Rajapaksa has resigned at last, but not before keeping the country guessing for two days. In a not-unexpected turn of events, the beleaguered executive head of Sri Lanka fled by an Air Force plane, reached the Maldives and thereafter went to Singapore, presumably on his way to another country. Evidently hedging against the possibility of being turned back by any of these countries, he did not submit his resignation on July 13 as promised. As he sent in his resignation Thursday evening, it was clear he was holding out so that he would not lose his presidential immunity from prosecution until he reached safe haven. Given the widespread wrath against him, being in Colombo without the shield of office was not an option for him. Instead, he appointed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe to discharge the President's functions in his absence, using a provision in the Constitution which allows such an arrangement if the incumbent has to leave the country or is otherwise unable to perform his duties. Mr. Wickremesinghe is now unlikely to respond to calls for his resignation, as the country's Constitution provides that the current Prime Minister shall act as President until a new one is elected. While the legislature is to be convened soon for formally electing a new President, there are questions over whether the mass uprising will abate, as its protagonists have been asking for Mr. Wickremesinghe's resignation too, seeing him as equally discredited. It is perhaps in anticipation of an intensification of the protest that Mr. Wickremesinghe has asked the military to do whatever is needed to restore order. But order is not born of bloodshed; confrontation must be avoided, and efforts made to heed the demands of the people.

The world has been amazed by the unprecedented display of righteous anger and courage by the citizens of Sri Lanka, as they channelled the widespread fury against the devastation caused by the economic crisis on their day-to-day existence. As civil society came together, it is apt to see this as a revolutionary moment in which an avaricious and apathetic political class has been humbled by people united by suffering. While external observers see this as a moment of truth for authoritarian leaders, power-hungry politicians and their ilk, it remains to be seen if political leaders in Sri Lanka themselves have drawn any lesson from it. Reports suggest that jockeying for power is going on on one side even as images of protesters overwhelming offices and residences associated with the rulers are going viral. Sri Lankans may expect that a change of regime will mean a new order that would usher in constitutional changes, policy reforms and reverse the trend of public interest being sacrificed for political ends. The next President should recognise this legitimate aspiration and refrain from any attempt to maintain the status quo, cover up the misdeeds that led the country to the current crisis or preserve the ill-gotten gains of office.

Bridging the gap

India needs to help women get greater access to jobs and resources

The struggle to achieve gender equality and bridge the gap between men and women is a long and difficult one. India has got another opportunity to do much better for half of its population with the Global Gender Gap Index for 2022, released by the World Economic Forum on Wednesday, placing it at 135 out of 146 countries. But the new data – India's ranking in 2021 was 140 out of 156 countries – hardly brings cheer as India has fared the worst in at least one of the parameters – 'health and survival' – in which it took the last spot. The Global Gender Gap Index benchmarks the current state and evolution of gender parity across four dimensions: economic participation and opportunity; educational attainment; health and survival, and political empowerment. India ranks poorly among its neighbours and is behind Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Bhutan. Only Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan perform worse than India in the region. In 2022, coming on the back of a pandemic, war and economic crises, the global gender gap has been closed by 68.1%, which means at the current rate of progress it will take 132 years to reach full parity. Among all the regions, it will take the longest for South Asia to reach the target – 197 years – "due to a broad stagnation in gender parity scores ... in the region".

There have been enough numbers from the ground to indicate that India, with a female population of approximately 66 crore, has faltered on the road to gender parity. In the pandemic years, as incomes shrank, women faced hurdles on every front, from food, health, and education for the girl child to jobs. The latest NFHS data (2019-2021) show that 57% of women (15-49 age bracket) are anaemic, up from 53% in 2015-16; though 88.7% of married women participate in key household decisions, only 25.4% of women, aged 15-49 years, who worked in the last 12 months (2019-2021), were paid in cash. Women having a bank account or savings account that they themselves use have increased to 78.6%, with schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana helping, but women participation in the labour force has shrunk. According to Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data, in 2016-17 about 15% women were employed or looking for jobs; this metric dipped to 9.2% in 2021-22. The best way to improve India's abysmal ranking is to do it right by women. For that, it is imperative to increase representation of women in leadership positions at all levels so that women get greater access to jobs and resources. It is up to the Government to move beyond tokenisms and help women overcome staggering economic and social barriers.

Two leaves, one leader, and a party reborn

Political glory is by no means assured for Edappadi K. Palaniswami, owing to several external threats to the AIADMK

NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

With the consolidation of political power in the hands of Edappadi K. Palaniswami, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, who has been elected as interim General Secretary of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), a complex process of paradigmatic transition in Dravidian politics is more or less complete, and a new era is set to begin in earnest.

It was clear that a profound change was coming, starting in late 2016, with the passing of former AIADMK chief Jayalalithaa. When the era of M. Karunanidhi, former President of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), also passed into the history books in late 2018, there was little doubt that the 50-year Dravidian mobilisation project would cease to be dependent purely on the whims and fancies of strongman – and strong-woman – leaders. Now, performance in office and the delivery of good governance, policies that matter to the citizenry's daily lives, matter more than ever before.

To better understand the prognosis for this unique social movement, which has produced unprecedented socio-economic outcomes, including poverty alleviation, nutritional achievements, and pedagogical innovation in primary education, without ignoring the imperatives of economic growth and industrial development, it is worth considering why the balance of power in State politics has come to such a pass.

Centralisation of power

The recent meeting of the AIADMK General Council, which saw the apotheosis of Mr. Palaniswami and the reconfiguration of the top posts within the party structure, offers hints about the direction in which the leadership plans to steer the organisation in the years ahead. The ground was set for epochal transformation, first through the Council's unanimous repeal of Rule 20, which had since its introduction in 2017 assured that Jayalalithaa would remain the "eternal General Secretary" of the party. The rescinding of this rule deals a double blow to the old ethos of the AIADMK.

On the one hand it implicitly acknowledges, more than five years after Jayalalithaa's death, that she was not so much a god as much as her name – "Amma" – continues to be a politically useful rallying cry to mobilise women, the destitute, and other vulnerable groups, and minorities in the State; and the symbol of the party's promise to deliver to them the mass welfare policies that have historically been the AIADMK's wont.

On the other, and through the mechanism of the new Rule 20A, which sets out the qualifying criteria for the now-revived post of General Secretary in terms of minimum length of party membership and service in senior office-bearing capacities at the party's Chennai headquarters, the latest changes ensure that only Mr. Palaniswami shall hold the reins of the AIADMK organisation, going forward.

Notwithstanding several incidents of violence in Chennai and some regions across the State linked to this reconfiguration of power within the AIADMK, the rise of Mr. Palaniswami has largely been a bloodless coup. Yet a democratic coup it was, for it brings to an abrupt end an unstable era of dual vectors of power within the party, an arrangement that was a necessary compromise to accommodate both Mr. Palaniswami and Mr. Panneerselvam at the apex of the State government and not throw away the electoral victory that Jayalalithaa had bestowed as a final act before her health declined.

New era, new rules

This brings us to the question of why the ecosystem that Mr. Palaniswami now finds himself in is different from the one that his predecessors enjoyed. During the nearly four years that the duumvirate held sway after Jayalalithaa's demise, Mr. Palaniswami made a mark for himself from the Chief Ministerial seat, primarily by going beyond the long-standing impulse toward competitive populism in Tamil Nadu politics to support good governance. This meant ensuring that the State government delivered robustly on everything from crop insurance for farmers in drought-affected regions of Tamil Nadu and the second Global Investors Meet held in 2019, to procuring and distributing safety gear and managing critical goods supplies during a brutal first year of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Yet this apparent commitment to a high standard of performance in delivering substantive, pro-people, pro-growth policies was not so much a choice as it was a compulsion of the political environment. Given the sheer autocratic style of party administration of Jayalalithaa, who deliberately degraded multiple rungs of the green shoots of leadership beneath her, the likes of Mr. Palaniswami and Mr. Panneerselvam never stood a chance at wielding whole-party control that was essential to keep the flock together and prevent squabbling, factionalism, and dissent from causing deep fractures in the organisational structure, with potentially catastrophic consequences for the AIADMK's grip on power.

It must also be said that for the best part of the half-century that M.G. Ramachandran, Karunanidhi and Jayalalithaa ruled Tamil Nadu, grand corruption in high office was rampant, leading to party luminaries acquiring vast amounts of illicit private wealth. The people of Tamil Nadu, earlier resigned to the Faustian bargain of receiving mass welfare goods while allowing their masters to loot the public exchequer, have now woken up to a new reality, where they demand greater accountability from the government and reward strong performers.

In this new context, Mr. Palaniswami, has had to forge a consensus among various caste and regional leaders from across the State, which was built both on his power to persuade but also on shrewdness in distributing the largess of government and striking bargains toward maintaining stability of rule.

While it is a different matter that the AIADMK was ousted from power in the 2021 State Assembly election – an outcome that also reflects voter's concerns about the party's and Mr. Panneerselvam's perceived closeness to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) – what matters most in the present context for the party is that those years in government were Mr. Palaniwami's opportunity to demonstrate his skill in the subtle art of political accommodation.

The proof of that pudding lies in the fact that now a majority of office-bearers and district secretaries within the party have placed their confidence in his ability to lead the AIADMK single-handedly into the future, taking on the mantle of main opposition in the State, and challenger to the DMK in the 2024 Lok Sabha election and the 2026 State Assembly election.

Back to competitive populism

However, a future of political glory is by no means assured for Mr. Palaniswami, and his talent as a broker of political arrangements will be tested to the limit, owing to several external threats to the AIADMK. First, Mr. Panneerselvam is bent on exhausting every legal avenue for appeal of the General Council's actions and will leverage his influence with the BJP leadership to push hard on this count. Second, even if he runs out of legal options, Mr. Panneerselvam's proximity to the BJP makes it impossible to rule out the use of raids by the Income Tax Department or Enforcement Directorate to destabilise the functioning of the AIADMK under Mr. Palaniswami. Third, it is possible that along with V.K. Sasikala, Jayalalithaa's confidant, her nephew T.T.V. Dhinakaran, and his party, the Amma Makkal Munnettra Kazagam, Mr. Panneerselvam may seek to build a coalition to capture the vote of the Thevar caste that dominates some sections of the southern districts of Tamil Nadu, potentially eating into the vote share of the AIADMK.

Even if he survives these likely hurdles brought by Mr. Panneerselvam, Mr. Palaniswami's final challenge will be to clarify to voters what ideology and policies the AIADMK stands for in the aftermath of Jayalalithaa – with the two-pronged objective of clearly delineating his party from the DMK and of taking a firmer line against Hindutva politics seeping into the chinks in the armour of Dravidian exceptionalism.

Whatever the details of the strategies Mr. Palaniswami adopts in this regard, one thing is clear – the politics of competitive populism will rise once again with each major Dravidian party headed by a single leader holding a mandate to steer the ship as they deem fit. In the process, even while it remains a challenge for Dravidian party leaders to effectively stem grand corruption in public office, it is likely that there will remain a broad focus on growth-spurring policies and mass welfare schemes for the poorest sections.

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The great omission in the draft disability policy

Unless there is political inclusion of the disabled, the goal of inclusiveness and empowerment will remain elusive

SHASHANK PANDEY

The Department of Empowerment of Person with Disabilities (DoEPwD) recently released the draft of the national policy for persons with disabilities ("Policy") – public comments have been invited till July 15, 2022 (at: panda.dk@nic.in). The necessity for a new policy which replaces the 2006 policy was felt because of multiple factors such as India's signing of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities; enactment of a new disability legislation (Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016) which increased the number of disabilities from seven conditions to 21 and being a party to the Incheon Strategy for Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022 ("Incheon commitment"). The last was prepared under the aegis of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) which identifies 10 goals for Asia-Pacific countries to ensure the inclusion and the empowerment of persons with disabilities and conformity with the Sustainable Development Goals 2030.

These commitments have changed the discourse around disability by shifting the focus from the individual to society, i.e., from a medical model of disability to a social or human rights model of disability.

The principle of the draft policy is to showcase the Government's commitment to the inclusion and empowerment of persons with disabilities by providing a mechanism that ensures their full participation in society.

In furtherance of this commitment, the policy document highlights a detailed commitment to education, health, skill development and employment, sports and culture, social security, accessibility and other institutional mechanisms. However, a glaring omission is the absence of any commitment to the political uplift of persons with disabilities.

About political participation

Article 29 of the Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities mandates that state parties should "ensure that persons with disabilities can effectively and fully participate in political and public life on an equal basis with others, directly or through freely chosen representatives...." The Incheon goals also promote participation in political processes and in decision making. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016 embodies these principles within its fold. The anti-discrimination commitment under this Act recognises the political domain wherein disabled people should be allowed to realise their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The documents fail to take cognisance of such mandates.

Political empowerment and the inclusion of the disabled are an issue that has not found traction in India's democratic discussion. India does not have any policy commitment that is aimed at enhancing the political participation of disabled people.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The exclusion of disabled people from the political space happens at all levels of the political process in the country, and in different ways. For instance, the inaccessibility of the voting process, barriers to participation in party politics or a lack of representation at the local, State or national levels have all aggravated the marginalisation of the disabled.

Ground realities, no data

Section 11 of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act prescribes that "The Election Commission of India and the State Election Commissions shall ensure that all polling stations are accessible to persons with disabilities and all materials related to the electoral process are easily understandable by and accessible to them". Although this mandate has been in existence for a few years, the disabled people still report accessibility issues before and on election day. There is often a lack of accessible polling booths in many locations. There is still no widespread adaptation of braille electronic voting machines and even wheelchair services at all polling centres. The Election Commission of India has developed its own procedures for handling PwDs during the electoral process.

Political parties in India still do not find the disabled as the large electorate to specifically address their needs.

The lack of live aggregate data on the exact number of the disabled people in every constituency only furthers their marginalisation. The lack of accessible space for party meetings, inaccessible transport for campaigning or an attitudinal barrier among voters and party leaders can be termed as contributing factors. Thus, we seldom see disability being highlighted in the manifestos of parties.

Inadequate representation

Representation plays an imperative role in furthering the interests of the marginalised community. Our Constitution makers recognised this when they provided for reservation for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes in the legislature. Disabled people are not represented enough at all three levels of governance. The response to a right to information filing by this writer to the Parliamentary Affairs Ministry showed that the Government does not maintain data on the disability aspect of members. The first visually disabled Member of Parliament in independent India, Sadhan Gupta, hardly finds mention in our political or disability discourse. We have often failed to acknowledge disabled political personalities who have overcome the myriad barriers in India's political space.

However, few States have begun the initiative at local levels to increase participation. For instance, Chhattisgarh started the initiative of nominating at least one disabled person in each panchayat. If a disabled person is not elected then they are nominated as a panchayat member as per changes in the law concerned. This is a step that has increased the participation of the disabled in the political space at local level.

'Make the right real'

The goal of the policy document – of inclusiveness and empowerment – cannot be achieved without political inclusion. The policy can follow a four-pronged approach: building the capacity of disabled people's organisations and 'empowering their members through training in the electoral system, government structure, and basic organisational and advocacy skills'; the creation, amendment or removal of legal and regulatory frameworks by lawmakers and election bodies to encourage the political participation of the disabled; inclusion of civil societies to 'conduct domestic election observation or voter education campaigns'; and a framework for political parties to 'conduct a meaningful outreach to persons with disabilities when creating election campaign strategies and developing policy positions'.

The document lays emphasis on the point that central and State governments must work together with other stakeholders to "make the right real". This right can be made real only when it includes political rights/political participation within it. This will only conform to the universal principle on disability, i.e., "Nothing about us. Without us."

Shashank Pandey is a Javed Abidi Fellow at the National Centre for Promotion of Employment for Disabled People (NCPEDP). He was a Legislative Assistant to Members of Parliament (LAMP) Fellow

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Sri Lankan crisis

What a fall for the former President of Sri Lanka who is said to be hopping from one nation to another in the region. And to imagine that he was elected on a popular mandate! Various reasons for his fall from grace have been put out, but, surely, the signs of distress would have been visible for a few years. In a democracy, the ultimate power lies with the people. Majoritarianism is never the best policy, as has been proved in Sri Lanka.

ANTHONY HENRIQUES,
Mumbai

■ It is astonishing that after bringing the nation to its knees, the Rajapaksas are finding ways to flee. This shows that the powerful family is afraid to face the law of the land. Though there are other factors such as the pandemic and the Ukraine war that have also been contributory factors, it is ill-advised policies and mis-governance that have clearly made matters worse. The next government should quickly take corrective steps with the help of international lending agencies and friendly neighbours.

KOSARAJU CHANDRAMOULI,
Hyderabad

Stand on demolitions

The stand taken by the Supreme Court of India (Page 1, "Cannot impose 'omnibus' ban on demolitions: SC", July 14) is a bit baffling as it is quite evident that most of the demolitions are politically motivated.

The Court is sure to be well aware of the Government's bulldozer politics. While the rule of law should be upheld, the top court should also ensure that it is the guardian for the rights of the vulnerable.

V.S. SINDHURI,
Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh

In the beholder's eye

The difference in the appearance between the National Emblem (the Ashoka Pillar) at Sarnath and the structure installed as its replica atop the under-construction Parliament building is glaringly obvious and not subtle to escape notice. The newly installed bronze cast is more a grotesque and unaesthetic adaptation. It cannot be rated as a marvel or as a fine specimen of Indian sculpture. The Sarnath lions do look graceful and gentle.

G. DAVID MILTON,
Marathancode, Tamil Nadu

■ There has been a lot of drama by the Opposition in its perception of the National Emblem. The replica signifies the might of a self-reliant and new India. The Opposition must stop its petty politics.

VISHAL MAYUR,
Tumkur, Karnataka

M BG-BGE

Is protectionism compatible with liberalisation?

PARLEY

There needs to be serious participation by the market forces together with the government

At a time when the Central government says it is liberalising India's economy, its economic policymaking on the external front has been marked by rising protectionism. With policies such as Atmanirbhar Bharat, there seems to be a conscious effort to protect the domestic economy from foreign competition. This raises questions on whether the government's external protectionism is compatible with its promise of liberalising India's economy. In a discussion moderated by **Prashanth Perumal J.**, *Biswajit Dhar and Ajay Shah talk about model of industrial policy that should be the way forward. Excerpts:*

An 'Atmanirbhar' tea stall outside a BJP office in Mumbai. • AFP FILE PHOTO

Is the government's external protectionism compatible with its broader liberalisation agenda?

Biswajit Dhar: The kind of protectionism we are seeing in the name of Atmanirbhar Bharat is disappointing because while there is a case for having an industrial policy, where you invest in industries that you think could be globally competitive, what is happening in India is there is a long list of sectors in which the government has embarked on import substitution that encourages domestic production. What is problematic is that you're not talking about efficiencies which will make these sectors globally competitive. The emphasis is on producing in India rather than on efficiency.

Ajay Shah: I want to put out two ideas. One, different countries should specialise in producing different things, and it is not easy for policymakers to understand what India will be good at and what India will be bad at. These are things for markets to discover. I always like to remind us of the story from the 1970s, when policymakers in New Delhi thought that electronics export was going to be a good thing. So, they created the Santacruz Electronic Export Processing Zone (SEEPZ) in Bombay and removed customs duties. By removing protectionism, they thought they were doing a favour to the electronics industry. And 30 years later, when you look back, what came out on top were the software industry and the diamond processing industry. So, the government's industrial policy was wrong. It was not in electronics where there was a fabulous opportunity for India; it was in software and diamonds. The point is, the market economy knows how to discover these things, policymakers don't.

The second idea is a very simple intuition: every time you cut customs duties, every time you remove elements of protectionism, firms in India which are users of those goods become more competitive. So, we grow exports from India by making raw materials cheaper. Again, one man's output is another man's input. Policymakers cannot tell what they should be backing. So, the wild strategy is to just remove all barriers to globalisation. That is the best path for us as a country.

Is the Centre's external protectionism merely a reflection of its domestic economic policies?

BD: Yes. We have been hearing about getting red tape out of the way for 30 years, but instead of getting it out of the way, I think it's just piling on. Ease of doing business is a major issue. It's clear that if the government doesn't get its act together domestically, including the institutions and all, it's not going to get any kind of investment – foreign investment or domestic. That's going to be a huge problem. There's been this discussion going on for the past 33 years as to why China or other Southeast Asian countries have been attracting foreign investment, while in India, with successive governments saying we have the most investor-friendly policy, investors are not investing long term. So, external and domestic reforms have to go hand in hand.

AS: There are many pieces to the problem that need to be sorted out. But we have to be strategic when we think about where the bottlenecks are. We need to debate the important bottlenecks that are impeding India's participation in global supply chains and in the world of globalised production. And I want to link this with the labour market where we need to figure out where those domestic bottlenecks are that are holding back large-scale labour-intensive investment in India.

Doesn't discretionary government policy in the name of Atmanirbhar Bharat bring along with it the risk of possible favouritism towards special interest groups?

AS: It's easy to impute motives and worry about corruption, but I actually worry about one basic thing, which is that nobody knows the future. It is very difficult to look at the future and figure out which Indian industry is going to do well and which is going to do badly. I mentioned the example of the SEEPZ. Those were some of the smartest people in the country at that time who were involved in economic policymaking. But they were not able to figure out that opportunity in India lay in software and diamonds, and not in electronics. So, I think that the market economy is a great method of discovery. It is a tool for figuring out what works and what doesn't. It involves taking risks. Many private people have to try many things. Some will work, some will not work. It is not in the nature of bureaucracies to experiment. Industrial policy requires having a high level of knowledge, forecasting capability, and intellectual capacity in government. And you know, frankly, nobody in the world has the ability to forecast what's going to happen five or 10 years out in the future. I feel we should all be modest and say that we don't know. Let the market economy do the job of risk-taking, making mistakes, etc. Many firms will go bankrupt, and many industries will shut down. That's okay.

The industry needs to identify the pain points, and they should ask the government to address these issues. For instance, the innovation sector the world over has needed a lot of government support.
BISWAJIT DHAR

That's how we find out what works and what doesn't.

BD: I think policy should be made by the government and industries having a dialogue. This has been the reason behind the success story of many Southeast Asian countries. They have not just let the market do whatever it wanted to. There was serious participation by the industry, or the market forces, together with the government. The government has to play the important role of a facilitator. And that kind of a dialogue really took place in Japan, [South] Korea, and many Southeast Asian countries. Singapore is another example. That is the way India should go. We tried to rely just on market forces for the better part of the last 30 years, but we didn't make much headway. And in the process, we found that most productive sectors have been lagging behind. So, the moment the economy was exposed to foreign competition, we started finding the lack of depth in different sectors across the board. To overcome this, the government needs to hear what the players on the ground need, and respond adequately. To my mind, that is the model of industrial policy that is the way forward.

Why shouldn't the Indian consumer be allowed to buy foreign goods if they are cheaper and better?

AS: That is an act of government coercion, where the government stands in the middle and interferes with the ability of an Indian consumer to buy something from abroad or the ability of an Indian firm to buy something from abroad or the ability of an engineering firm to raise capital from a cheaper source abroad, and so on. And I really feel uncomfortable with the readiness and the willingness of policymakers to use the coercive power of the state in such fashion. People know what's best for them. If a person wants to buy something from a vendor outside the country, why is it better when the government interferes? I feel that's a fundamental question of freedom that needs to be brought on the table.

BD: I do think that ad hoc protectionism is not really the way forward because ultimately we are living in a market economy and there has to be the freedom to choose. But I think we are actually talking about something more fundamental in the sense that we are looking at issues relating to falling competitiveness of Indian industry. What kind of a road map are you going to be following to get around the problem? The situation is increasingly becoming grim because due to the lack of competitiveness we are seeing the Indian economy suffer. If this situation continues, it would be very difficult to keep the macro fundamentals in check. Things are going to go pretty awry. I would say we need to look at how we are going to be on a more sustained pathway as far as our balance of payments is concerned. Our current account deficit is already threatening to go out of control. You need to have a government and industry partnership. The industry needs to identify the pain points, and they should ask the government to address these issues. For instance, the innovation sector the world over has needed a lot of government support. We saw what happened during the pandemic. Most of the major vaccines that were produced by these big pharmaceutical giants had substantial government backing. The government needs to play the role of a facilitator, and that's a very important role without which I don't think we are going to get into a sustained pathway.

AS: I agree, but then we have to confront the difficulties of state capacity in India. We are an underdeveloped country, and the capabilities in state structures are quite limited. In many ways we have actually not fared well in the last 20 years. So, we should be very cautious about what kind of mandate we wish to give the Indian state given its limitations.

Are we getting closer to the pre-1991 era of trade protectionism?

BD: It's not about how far or how close we are to the pre-1991 policy climate. I think it's about the trend and the trend seems to be towards the Nehruvian model of self-reliance. You can call it Atmanirbhar Bharat or by any other name, but it's self-reliance at the end of the day. The second thing that worries me about the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme are is that incentives are linked to certain capacities. That reminded me of a policy that was followed during the industrial licensing era, which was called the minimum economic scale. The government was telling the industry what could be the minimum economic scale and then directing the industry to produce along those lines. The PLI and its incentives at different levels smack of that kind of a policy. It's the direction, not really the distance, that worries me. If you're following this direction, there is a danger of reaching that someday, and that could be problematic in my view.

AS: One measure that we should be thinking about is the weighted average tariff rate which is compiled by the World Bank. The rough picture is that there's been no significant change in that number (6%) since 2008. So I don't think there's been a significant movement away from where we were earlier. That said, there are many other elements of protectionism which are not just about tariffs. Most importantly, it is about equal treatment of foreign companies. I feel that a lot of the regulatory system is moving in ways where national champions get policy support and foreign companies do not. I think that is the more worrisome thing to think about.

Biswajit Dhar
is Professor at the Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Ajay Shah
is Research Professor of Business at Jindal Global University

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NOTEBOOK

Word can't get out

Parliament — and reporters — faces a dilemma with regard to language in this digital age

SOBHANA K. NAIR

Language not only changes across region but also profession. For instance, it is common to see the usage 'for your kind perusal' in government letters. We dismiss this as 'bureaucratese'. Similarly, Parliament, too, has its own list of absurd and archaic phrases. The one that never fails to make me laugh is the passionate appeal for peace by the Chair when there is a pandemonium: "The Chair is standing on its legs..." Another phrase, "I beg to lay papers....", was often used in parliamentary proceedings. In 2017, Rajya Sabha Chairman Venkaiah Naidu discouraged this phrase saying parliamentarians in a free nation should not have to "beg" to do their routine work.

Today there is much debate on language again after the Lok Sabha Secretariat compiled a list of 151 words, which have been expunged in 2021 and 2020 in Parliaments across the Commonwealth countries and State Assemblies in India. The list includes words such as 'dodgy', 'betrayal', 'dog', 'frighten', 'hack', 'hypocrisy', 'irresponsible', 'liar', 'murder' and 'shame'. It also includes commonplace words such as 'penguin', 'goose', 'fudge', 'grubby', 'saleswoman', 'species' and 'yapping'. Even a word as benign as 'mate' has made it to the list. As per the document, it was expunged in New South Wales in August 2020. Many of these words may look harmless, but in a heated exchange between parliamentarians, they may not exactly be virtuous.

The list of Hindi phrases is far more potent and includes words that have entered the political lexicon post-2014, such as 'jumla jeevi (a person who makes false promises)'. In the first two decades of the Indian Parliament, English was the primary language used for parliamentary work. This changed as the social composition of Parliament changed from the 1970s onwards. At present, as many as 30 languages are used by parliamentarians during speeches, with many insisting on speaking their mother tongue during crucial debates. Perhaps, the next such compilation will also have words expunged from different regional languages.

The current compilation has especially caused consternation among Opposition parties which see this as an attempt to restrict their vocabulary. The government argues that this list is at best only "instructive" and not "definitive". The preface of the document states that the context in which these words were used is far more important than the words themselves. Ultimately, the final call of whether a word is "unparliamentary" or not lies with the presiding officer of the House.

This brings us to a problem that Parliament faces in today's digital age. The proceedings of both Houses of Parliament are relayed in real time on TV channels and YouTube. There have been instances where live transmission has been halted on the Chair's orders. To circumvent this, many members have recorded the proceedings on their mobile phone cameras. These recordings have also routinely made it to the evening debates on TV channels. Many Opposition members have been censured and even suspended for such misdemeanours, but that hasn't stopped these videos from circulating. It is also common for members to circulate video clips of their own speeches among journalists and on WhatsApp groups with their followers.

Opposition speeches are often provocative. There are many instances of the Chair intervening and expunging words or phrases that it finds "objectionable". Herein lies the problem. The order of the Chair is often relayed by late evening to reporters, but by then, the video clip would have already been circulated many times over. Print reporters are careful and abide by the orders, but in a digital ecosystem, this is not easy. And though print reporters adhere to the terms of engagement, we are faced with a dilemma when such words create a political storm and do the rounds on social media. While the debate rages on, we continue to walk the fine line between watching the action while also sticking to the rules.

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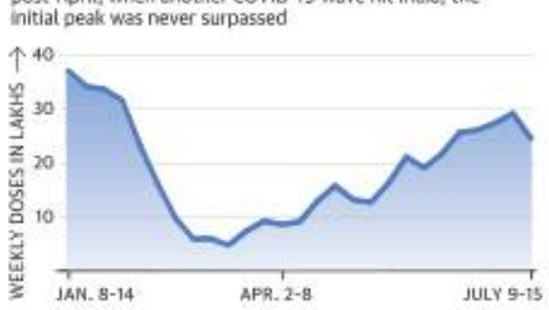
DATA POINT

A boost for boosters

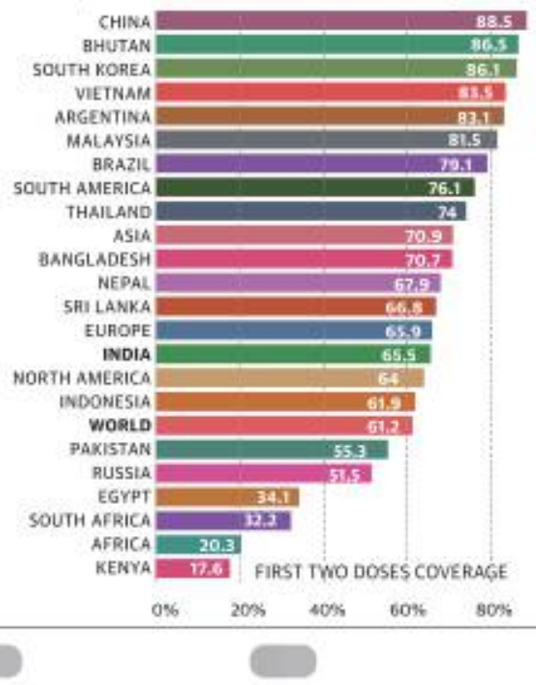
After reducing the gap between the second dose and the precautionary dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from nine to six months for adults, the government on Wednesday announced free booster shots for adults for the next 75 days. The measures were put in place as the pace of booster administration was lagging after a brisk start in January this year, when it was introduced. A comparison with comparable and neighbouring economies shows that India's booster penetration was among the lowest. Only 3.6% of India's population received booster shots as of July 13, whereas the world average was 27.4%. Strikingly, India's progress in the administration of the first two doses was relatively better, with 65.5% of the population getting both shots, which is higher than the world average of 61.2%. A study of vaccine effectiveness from England has demonstrated that the efficacy of booster doses against hospitalisation among symptomatic cases with the Omicron variant increases to 92% from 64% (two doses) and 58% (one dose). By **The Hindu Data Team**

No takers Health workers waiting at the special COVID 19 vaccination camp at Vannarpettai in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu • A.SHAIKMOHIDEEN

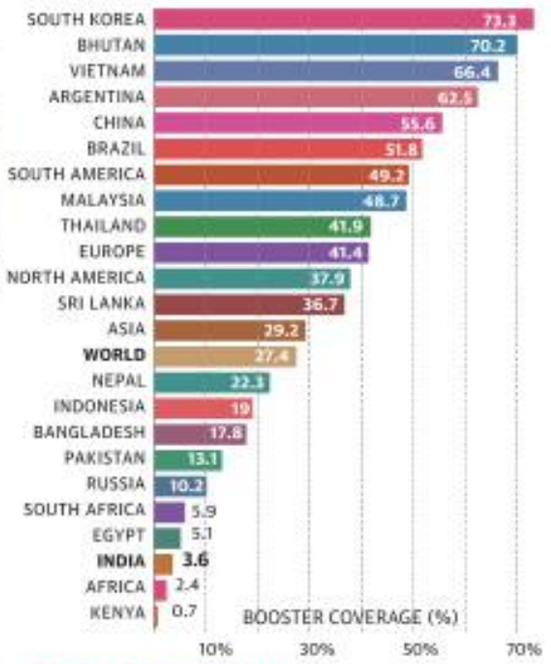
1. CONSISTENTLY POOR | The graph shows the number of precautionary vaccine shots administered weekly in India. In the week precautionary doses were introduced, 37 lakh doses were delivered. Since then, there has been a rapid decline. While the number of shots administered improved post-April, when another COVID-19 wave hit India, the initial peak was never surpassed



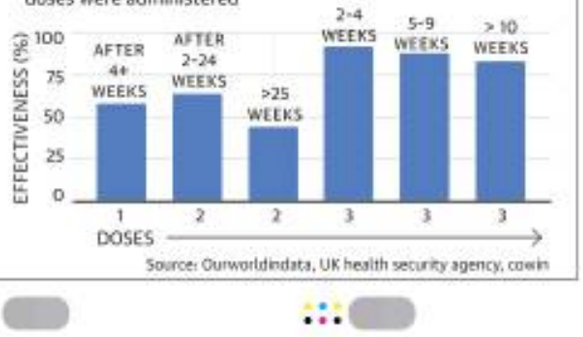
2. FIRST TWO DOSES COVERAGE | If we look at the total number of people who received the first two doses prescribed by the initial vaccination protocol and divide that by the total population of the country/region, we find that India's performance is better than the world average



3. BOOSTER DOSES COVERAGE | This refers to the total number of vaccine booster doses administered divided by the total population of the country/region. Booster doses are doses administered beyond those prescribed by the original vaccination protocol. India's performance is much poorer than the world average and is closer to Africa's share



4. EFFICACY OF BOOSTERS | An analysis of over 1.8 lakh symptomatic Omicron cases in England at the end of 2021 showed that vaccine effectiveness against hospitalisation improved to 85%-90%, two to four weeks after the booster doses were administered



Source: Ourworldindata, UK health security agency, cowin

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 15, 1972

Exhibition of war photos abandoned

New Delhi, July 14: Following the Simla agreement, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry has instructed its media units to stop all programmes that are likely to create ill-feeling between India and Pakistan, according to official sources. The instructions say that programmes put out hereafter should in fact, "faithfully reflect India's sincere desire for a durable peace with Pakistan." As an example, an exhibition entitled "India Meets the Challenge," which was going on in the country even during the Simla talks, has been discontinued on telegraphic instructions from the Government. Similarly, the Defence Ministry has abandoned the idea of holding an exhibition of photographs of the last war as part of the silver jubilee Independence celebrations planned for the next month in the capital.

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi had, in fact, taken unilateral decision just before the Murree emissary-level talks that all programmes broadcast on All India Radio network and the Delhi television centre should have a constructive approach towards Pakistan.

The Pakistan emissaries at the Murree talks had also informed the Indian side of their country's intention to taper off their anti-India radio and TV programmes and to stop them altogether on a date to be fixed later.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 15, 1922

British Finance

London, July 14: An important statement of Britain's financial position was made by Sir Robert Horne in the Commons today. Replying to a question by Mr. Asquith, Sir Robert Horne said that the British debt to America at present rate of exchange was £938000000. The floating debt has been reduced since July last by £409000000 and that maturing 1922-23 reduced by conversion to fortyfour millions. Government was constantly directing its attention to debt to America which was a solemn obligation which Govt. would undoubtedly meet the recent request by the United States to consider the funding debt would be completely met. Britain's financial position was stronger today than at any time since the armistice. Sir R. Horne believed that ways would be found to avert the grave financial perils of the world and Britain would play a very great part in the matter.

FROM PAGE ONE

Gotabaya in Singapore, sends in his resignation

They braved extreme weather, crippling fuel scarcity, and violence unleashed by ruling party supporters on May 9. The unprecedented resistance to the Rajapaksas, Sri Lanka's most formidable political brand for over 15 years, has decisively eliminated the first family from political prominence for the near future.

Now, demonstrators continue calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was appointed Acting President on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Maldivian Speaker and ex-President Mohamed Nasheed announced Mr. Gotabaya's resignation on Twitter, minutes before the Sri Lankan Speaker announced receiving the letter.

Maldivian media earlier reported that Mr. Nasheed had received Mr. Gotabaya at the airport and held talks before his departure, even as protesters in Male asked its government not to "safeguard criminals".

Sri Lanka's political opposition slammed the delay in the President's resignation.

"If it is indeed true, I am amazed at the irony of what has happened," said Opposition lawmaker and Sri Lanka Muslim Congress Leader Rauff Hakeem.

"Someone who came to power on a platform of national security has fled the country for his own security, fearing his own people. This fate would not have befallen him if he had had the foresight to quit at the right time. He has disgraced himself, and brought disgrace upon the whole nation," he told *The Hindu*.

Fiscal deficit reined in, CAD a concern: Ministry

The Ministry stressed that the boom in gold imports was also a concern though the government had raised import duties in a bid to curb them. "A sudden and sharp surge in gold imports amid wedding season (as many weddings were postponed to 2022) is also exerting pressure on the CAD. If recession concerns do not lead to a sustained and meaningful reduction in the prices of food and energy commodities, then India's CAD will deteriorate in 2022-23 on account of costlier imports and tepid exports," the Finance Ministry cautioned.

The current account slid back into a deficit of 1.2% of GDP in 2021-22, after registering a surplus of 0.9% in the preceding pandemic-hit fiscal year. Economists expect the CAD to widen to about 3% of GDP this year. An increase in services exports where India is more globally competitive as compared to merchandise exports, may help rein in the CAD, which is also putting pressure on the rupee, the Ministry averred.

While the rupee has dropped 6% against the dollar since January, the Ministry contended that the currency had performed well compared with peers from other major economies 'unlike in 2013, when it depreciated against other major economies'. This, it asserted, reflected the 'strong fundamentals' of the Indian economy.

However, on the flip side, the Ministry noted: "The depreciation, in addition to elevated global commodity prices, has also made price-inelastic imports costlier, thereby making it further difficult to reduce the CAD."

Kerala reports India's first monkeypox case

The person, a Kollam native, has been isolated for treatment at the Government Medical College Hospital (MCH) here. His condition was stable, though he seemed very anxious.

He had first consulted a private hospital at Kollam after he developed fever and other symptoms. He himself volunteered the information that a close contact of his in the UAE had been confirmed as having contracted monkeypox. He was referred to the MCH.

Close contacts isolated

His close contacts – father and mother – have also been isolated at the same hospital. Ms. George said a few other persons who might qualify as contacts – the driver who took the person from the airport to his home at Kollam, the driver of the autorickshaw in which he travelled to the private hospital, the healthcare personnel who attended to him at the first hospital as well as 11 persons who had occupied the seats near him on his flight from the UAE – have all been informed about the new development. They will also have to go into isolation and monitoring for the next 21 days. Ms. George said that according to the patient, he had travelled on flight wearing the face mask and that he was wearing clothes that fully covered him.

She said the disease spread from person to person only through close contact and that there was no need to panic at this point in time. However, all districts have been asked to enhance disease surveillance in the field and to be on the lookout for any fever with unusual symptoms.

The Kerala Health Department has taken all precautions to ensure that the infection does not spread outside the circle of close contacts. The COVID-19 graph in the State has been up for the past one month and hence mask mandates are in place and health workers are habituated to the use of PPE kits before attending to patients, thus minimising the risk of spread, Ms. George said.

Monkeypox initially presents like any tropical disease with fever, headache, joint ache and possible swelling of the lymph glands. The incubation period for the disease – the time from exposure to the virus to the manifestation of symptoms – ranges from five to 21 days.

JMM formally offers support to Murmu

"Parliamentarians and legislators are directed to vote in favour of presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu," said the letter addressed to JMM MPs and MLAs. Earlier, JMM leader and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren had given enough indications that his party would support Ms. Murmu in the poll as she comes from the Adivasi community but had said, "The final decision will be taken by the party president." Ms Murmu had recently visited Hemant and Shibu Soren.

Zubair urges SC to quash six FIRs in U.P.

The fact-checker has also challenged formation of Special Investigation Team to investigate cases

NEW DELHI BUREAU
NEW DELHI

Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair has moved the Supreme Court seeking to quash six first information reports (FIRs) registered against him in Uttar Pradesh for insulting religious feelings on Twitter.

The FIRs have been registered at Muzaffarnagar, Ghaziabad, Sitapur, Lakhimpur and Hathras.

The fact-checker has also challenged the formation of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) by the Uttar Pradesh Police to investigate the cases.

In the alternative, Mr. Zubair said the cases in Uttar Pradesh should be clubbed with the one in Delhi.

He was first arrested in the Delhi case on June 27. He has also sought interim bail in all the six FIRs in Uttar Pradesh.

Alt News co-founder Mohammed Zubair being produced at the Patiala House Courts in New Delhi on June 28. • FILE PHOTO

On July 8, a Vacation Bench of the Supreme Court allowed interim bail to Mr. Zubair for five days in the Sitapur case subject to several conditions, including that he does not tweet.

On July 12, the Supreme Court extended the interim bail till further orders in the Sitapur case while giving time to Uttar Pradesh to file its counter-affidavit. The case is scheduled for September 7.

Sitapur case

The Sitapur case was registered in June this year over a tweet by Mr. Zubair which referred to hate-speech accused Hindu seers Bajrang Muni, Yati Narsinghanand and Anand Swaroop as "hatemongers".

In the Lakhimpur Kheri case registered at the Mohammadi police station, Mr. Zubair has already filed a bail application and the police are looking to seek his police custody.

Advocate Harjit Singh, appearing for Mr. Zubair in Lakhimpur, said, "On Thursday we were meant to argue on the bail plea. The prosecution sought that a Hindi translation of the bail application should be filed for them. So, now, the bail application is set to be heard on July 16 and the police remand application on July 20."

This FIR is from last year, registered against Mr. Zubair for a fact-check of a television channel report he had posted on Twitter. A journalist from the said channel – *Sudarshan TV* – had approached a court for an FIR in this case and the court had ordered the police to register the FIR.

Meanwhile, in one of the two cases registered against Mr. Zubair in Hathras district, the local court on Thursday remanded the journalist in 14 days' judicial custody after he was produced before the magistrate, his lawyers said.

No nod for contempt case against ex-judge

Criticism of SC view on Nupur remarks

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General K.K. Venugopal did not consent to a plea to initiate criminal contempt proceedings against former Delhi High Court judge S.N. Dhingra and two senior advocates for criticising the Supreme Court over its oral observations against suspended BJP leader Nupur Sharma.

Mr. Venugopal said the statements made by Justice Dhingra, senior advocates Aman Lekhi and K. Rama Kumar were in the "realm of fair comment on a hearing".

He said the statement were "not vituperative or abusive nor are they likely to interfere with the administration of justice by the Supreme Court of India".

Mr. Venugopal reminded advocate Jaya Sukin, who had sought his consent for initiating contempt action, that the Supreme Court had itself, in several judgments, held that "fair and reasonable criticism of a judicial proceedings would not constitute contempt of court".

"I am not satisfied that the criticism made by the three persons named in your letter is with malice or is an attempt to impair the administration of justice, or that it was a deliberate and motivated attempt to bring down the image of the judiciary. In the circumstances, I accordingly decline consent to initiate proceedings to criminal contempt of the Supreme Court," Mr. Venugopal addressed Mr. Sukin in his response.

K.K. Venugopal

A Vacation Bench of Justices Surya Kant and J.B. Pardiwala on July 1 severely reprimanded Ms. Sharma for her comments against Prophet Muhammed, saying she was "single-handedly responsible for what is happening in the country".

Three arrested in Patna for 'anti-India activities'

Police say subversive document seized from PFI members

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

The Bihar Police said on Thursday revealed the arrest of three members of the Popular Front of India (PFI) and the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) here on Thursday, and seizure of a seven-page document on an alleged plan to "establish rule of Islam in India by 2047" from them.

Mohammad Jallauddin, a retired policeman from Jharkhand, and Athar Pravej, allegedly a former member of the banned Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), were nabbed from the Phulwari Sharief area here on Wednesday. Arman Malik was arrested from a residential colony here on Thursday. The police called him the "kingpin" of the gang.

'Internal document'

The document, marked as "internal document, not for circulation", said, "2047 CE is not a watershed in history, but signifies the end of the century of Independent India and the beginning of a new one pregnant with changes, positive and negative, cataclysmic or otherwise. We dream of a 2047 where the political power has returned to the Muslim community from whom it was unjustly taken away by the British Raj".

"PFI is confident that even if 10% of the total Muslim population rallied behind it, the organisation would subjugate the majority community to their knees and bring back the glory of Islam in India," it said.

The document outlines plan to recruit "loyal" members of the minority community into government departments, including the executive and judicial branches, as well as the police and the Army. "PFI wants to create a split between RSS and SCs/STs/OBCs by projecting the organisation as an outfit interested only in the welfare of upper caste Hindus," it added.

Under the topic "Establishment of grievances", the document said, "The rising Hindutva forces, RSS and their puppet government at the Centre are giving us enough issues to foment grievances of our brothers and make them to believe that the RSS-controlled Union government is hell bent to suppress Islam in the country."

"Our target is to recruit all eligible members of all families into the organisation, party and other frontal wings. If it is not possible: recruit at least one of them to the organisation, if not recruit at least one to the party etc," it said.

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Phulwari Sharief, Manish Kumar said the suspects were arrested for "anti-India activities". He said the younger brother of Athar Pravej was jailed in 2001-02 in a bomb blast case. "Pravej also raised funds and gave training to local youth in using swords and knives in the guise of teaching them martial arts," he said.

Patna HC exceeded its jurisdiction: SC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday decided that the Patna High Court exceeded its jurisdiction by summoning Sahara group chief Subrata Roy in an anticipatory bail case completely unrelated to him and ordering him to come up with a plan to return investors' money.

Justice A.M. Khanwilkar, leading a Bench comprising Justice J.B. Pardiwala, conveyed his displeasure by remarking that he could, after being a judge for 22 years, without hesitation say that this was a case in which the High Court had stepped out of bounds.

Stayed HC orders

"This was a case of anticipatory bail of another person. This was also not a PIL. In my limited experience of 22 years as a judge I can say this order has gone beyond its jurisdiction," Justice Khanwilkar remarked in the hearing. The Supreme Court had earlier stayed the High Court orders of February 11 and April 27 against Sahara Credit Cooperative Societies Limited and Mr. Roy.

The court said the High Court had no power to add unrelated third parties in a plea for bail.

The High Court's orders were passed in a plea for anticipatory bail filed by three persons apprehending arrest in cheating and forgery cases involving ₹3 crore.

SC absolves forces of Dantewada killings

Court imposes ₹5 lakh costs on petitioner

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday turned the tables on activist Himanshu Kumar who had accused the Chhattisgarh Police, state-sponsored vigilantes and paramilitary forces of "massacring" tribal people in three villages of Dantewada during the anti-Naxal operations in 2009.

The court said the "alleged massacre was at the end of the Naxalites (Maoists)". Investigations had already been conducted into the incidents. Chargesheets had been filed for offences, including murder, dacoity, etc. There was not an "iota of material" against the forces. It ordered Mr. Kumar to pay "exemplary costs" of ₹5 lakh in the next four weeks or face recovery action.

The court left it open for the CBI or/and the Chhattisgarh Police to start a criminal investigation. • FILE PHOTO

"The alleged massacre was at the end of the Naxalites (Maoists). The materials collected in the form of chargesheets substantiate the case put up by the respondents (the Centre and the State of Chhattisgarh) that the villagers were attacked and killed by the Naxalites. There is not an iota of material figuring in the investigation on the basis of which even a finger can be pointed towards the members of the police force," a Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and J.B. Pardiwala held in its 94-page judgment.

The court *prima facie* found that the allegations of "massacre" made against the security forces were based on "false information". It left it open for the CBI or/and the Chhattisgarh Police to start a criminal investigation.

Gyanvapi dispute: Hindu side continues its arguments

The court will soon take up objections to the video survey

STAFF REPORTER
NEW DELHI

In the ongoing Gyanvapi mosque-Kashi Vishwanath temple civil dispute, four of the five Hindu plaintiffs on Thursday continued arguments opposing the Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee's application challenging the maintainability of their suit.

During the hearing before Varanasi District Judge A.K. Vishvesha, the legal team, led by advocate Hari Shankar Jain and his son advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain, submitted that the religious character of the disputed location did not change when Hindu deities were allegedly demolished and a mosque was built.

After the hearing on Thursday, Vishnu Shankar Jain said, "We cited the relevant judgments and argued at length about the relevance of the Hindu Shastric Law and how it is applicable under the Indian Evidence Act. We will continue our arguments on Friday."

The court is currently hearing the maintainability application filed by the Masjid panel in the dispute. The Masjid panel had argued that the suit is barred under the Places of Worship Act of 1991. However, the Hindu plaintiffs are arguing that the 1991 Act allows their suit and are seeking the right to "prove" the religious character of the disputed site as of August 15, 1947.

After this, the court is set to take up the objections filed to the video survey of the mosque premises that was conducted in May under orders of a civil court.

Centre gets time to reply on fundamental duties

SC allows States to join with responses

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed the Centre's request for two months' time to file a reply to a petition seeking the enforcement of fundamental duties of citizens, including patriotism and unity of nation, through "comprehensive, and well-defined laws".

'Collect and compile'

A Bench agreed to Attorney General K.K. Venugopal's submission that more time would be required to collect and compile the inputs from various Ministries and departments in order to prepare a detailed counter- affidavit on the issue raised in the petition filed by lawyer Durga Dutt.

The court also allowed States to join in with their take on the issue and file their responses. It listed the case next on September 26.

"The need to enforce fundamental duties arises due to new illegal trend of protest by protesters in the garb of freedom of speech and expression, by way of blocking of road and rail routes in order to compel the government to meet their demands," the petition said.

IN BRIEF

CBI registers fresh case against Mehul, others

NEW DELHI

The CBI has registered a fresh case against fugitive Mehul Choksi and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of banks to the tune of ₹55.27 crore. It has named Mumbai-based Bezel Jewellery (India) Private Limited and its whole-time directors as accused who cheated the consortium of Canara Bank and the Bank of Maharashtra.

Naari adalat to be set up in a phased manner

NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Women and Child Development will implement "naari adalat" (women's courts) led by women's collectives in the country in a phased manner as an alternative grievance redressl mechanism to resolve "petty" disputes at the gram panchayat level. The scheme is part of the Ministry guidelines for the Mission Shakti umbrella scheme released on Thursday. The umbrella scheme comprises of sub-schemes for women's safety and empowerment.

Nagaland slammed for delaying women's quota

NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday slammed the Nagaland government for delaying the implementation of 33% women's reservation in local bodies for years which has impacted the conduct of elections to urban local bodies in the North eastern State. The issue has in the past invited opposition from sections of the Naga society, who had contended that it was against their customary laws protected under Article 371(A) of the Constitution. The State had seen violence over the contentious issue.

Remove beef from signs, Arunachal eateries told

GUWAHATI

Hotels and restaurants across Naharlagun subdivision in Arunachal Pradesh have been ordered to remove the word 'beef' from signboards by July 18. Failure to comply with the order issued by the executive magistrate on July 13 would invite a fine of ₹2,000 and cancellation of trade licence. Mr. Tamo Dada, executive magistrate, said the order was issued following a verbal complaint that signs displaying 'beef' hurt the religious sentiments of the Hindus and other communities that do not consume the red meat.

More pilgrims can go on Amarnath Yatra

SRINAGAR

For the first time since flash floods hit the Amarnath yatra on July 8, J&K L-G Manoj Sinha, also the chairman of the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, spoke about the incident and said the rescue operation has come to an end. He revealed that 15 people died and 55 were injured, "with most discharged from the hospitals". He also revealed that the Board has decided to allow an additional 5,000 pilgrims every day on the twin routes against the slab of 15,000 set by the Supreme Court in 2012.

Political uproar over 'unparliamentary' word list

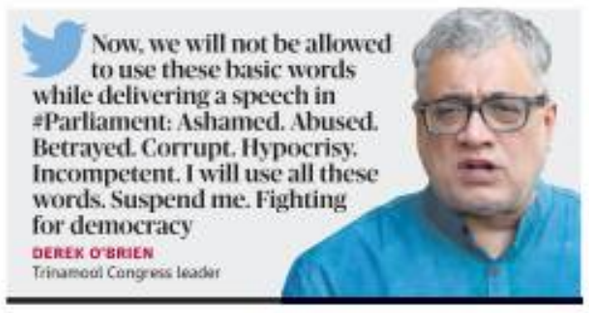
Responding to criticism, Lok Sabha Speaker says no word is banned and list is only a compilation of expunged words

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

A new compilation of unparliamentary words created a political storm on Thursday, with Opposition parties accusing the Narendra Modi government of "throttling" democracy by trying to "gag" them and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla clarifying that no word has been banned from use in Parliament.

Responding to the barrage of criticism, Mr. Birla asserted that putting together a list of unparliamentary words has been a tradition since 1954 and the latest list merely compiles words that have been found undignified in a specific context and expunged from the records by various Assemblies, Parliaments of Commonwealth countries and the two Houses of the Indian Parliament.

"No word has been banned. Members are free to express their views. No one can snatch that right, but it should be as per decorum of Parliament," the Lok Sabha Speaker told presspersons, adding that Opposition members should not mislead the country.



Mr. Birla said words chosen for expunging have been used by members of the ruling party as well, and urged the members to maintain the decorum of the House.

The controversy erupted after the Lok Sabha Secretariat, days before the monsoon session gets under way, put out a 50-page document that listed words such as 'ashamed', 'abused', 'jumlajeevi', 'taanashahi', 'betrayed', 'Snoopgate', 'COVID spreader', 'corrupt', 'drama', 'dictator', 'hypocrisy' and 'incompetent' as unparliamentary expressions. Sources said many of the words had been considered unparliamentary even during the Congress-led UPA era and only 62 words were added. However, some of them may be under review.

But Opposition parties viewed the list of expunged words as an attempt to silence them as most words in the list are those that they used to describe the Narendra Modi government.

"New Dictionary for New India," tweeted former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi and put up a photo to define the adjective "unparliamentary". "Words used in discussion and debates which correctly describe the PM's handling of the government, now banned from being spoken. Example of an unparliamentary sentence 'Jumlajeevi Tanashah shed Crocodile Tears when his lies and incompetence were exposed'," Mr. Gandhi said.

While Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge said they would continue to use the words despite the "ban", Congress leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury shot off a letter to Mr. Birla to keep the list in abeyance.

"If these words are taken out of the general vocabulary, the very essence and the impact of expression would be minimised... I may also like to point out that this sensitive matter should have been discussed in the Rules Committee where all the political parties are represented. None of the political parties have been consulted on this sensitive matter," Mr. Chowdhury said in his letter.

"Session begins in a few days. GAG ORDER ISSUED ON MPs. Now, we will not be allowed to use these basic words while delivering a speech in #Parliament: Ashamed. Abused. Betrayed. Corrupt. Hypocrisy. Incompetent. I will use all these words. Suspend me. Fighting for democracy," Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien tweeted.

The Bahujan Samaj Party's Danish Ali said that last year he had used the word 'jumlajeevi' as a counter to 'andolanjeevi' – Mr. Modi's jibe at those who regularly protest. While the original Lok Sabha TV clip had the word, it has now been muted.

"At this rate MPs will be left with no other option but to use sign language. Bizarre beyond belief," tweeted Congress leader Manish Tewari.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor said the compilation included words that have been deemed unparliamentary by various presiding officers and may have been expunged in a specific context. "So I would treat this list as indicative rather than definitive, I would speak normally and see whether it is applied in a draconian manner to stifle... As always, implementation is the key, not the list itself," he said.

Sonia asked to clarify party stand on Agnipath

Parliamentary strategy group meets

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

Sonia Gandhi

Congress leaders of the Parliamentary Strategy Group (PSG) on Thursday asked party president Sonia Gandhi to clarify the party's stand on the Agnipath recruitment policy in the wake of the contrasting stand taken by senior leader Manish Tewari, who is also a member of the strategy group.

The hour-long meeting, presided by Ms. Gandhi, met to identify the key issues that the Opposition would raise during the upcoming Monsoon session.

Apart from regular increase in cooking gas and commodity prices, the Agnipath scheme, the falling value of the rupee, unemployment, the prevailing economic situation in the country, bank privatisation and border hostilities were among issues that figured in the discussion.

Sources said both Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge and the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, raised the issue of differences within the party over Agnipath without mentioning Mr. Tewari's name.

Mr. Kharge is said to have referred to the meeting of the Consultative Committee on Defence, during which Mr. Tewari did not sign a joint letter by Opposition members urging the Centre to withdraw the scheme.

While Mr. Tewari didn't speak on Agnipath, Ms. Gandhi urged her colleagues to support the stand taken by the party.

While one of the leaders suggested that the party disrupt the proceedings over Agnipath, the Congress chief urged her colleagues to raise people's issues.

"We have decided to give priority to issues like rise in prices of LPG and essential items that affect the common people. We will also raise the issue of Agnipath scheme," Mr. Kharge told reporters after the meeting.

IN BRIEF

EC defers hearing of case against Jharkhand CM

NEW DELHI

The Election Commission on Wednesday deferred its hearing of the office of profit case against Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren on the request of the petitioner, the state Bharatiya Janata Party, officials said. The hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, when the BJP's lawyer sought more time to present additional information. The next hearing was then scheduled for August 5, an official said.

Centre forms task force to fill 10 lakh positions

NEW DELHI

A month after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the central government will be recruiting 10 lakh people within the next 18 months, the Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT) has constituted a task force to implement the plan. Personnel Minister Jitendra Singh said the task force, comprising officials from five Ministries, including Defence, Home and Railways, will coordinate the filling up of vacant posts as per the recruitment plan.

Maharashtra govt. slashes VAT on petrol, diesel

It puts bullet train project on fast track

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

In a major decision after taking power last month, the new Maharashtra government led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis slashed the value-added tax (VAT) on petrol and diesel by ₹5 and ₹3 per litre, respectively.

Mr. Fadnavis also said that the State government had given all clearances for expediting the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project, which had been put on the back-burner by the erstwhile Uddhav Thackeray-led tripartite 'Maha Vikas Aghadi' (MVA) government.

The decision on the fuel price cut was taken in the second Cabinet meeting since the formation of the new Shiv Sena (Shinde faction)-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government on June 30.

While stating that the reduction on fuel prices would put a burden of ₹6,000 crore annually on the State exchequer, Mr. Shinde said that the public would get a much-needed relief.

He further stressed that no development projects would be affected as a result of this relief. "This decision is part of the Shiv Sena-BJP government's commitment to public welfare," Mr. Shinde said.

Earlier in May this year, soon after the Centre had slashed the excise duty on diesel and petrol, the Uddhav Thackeray-led MVA had announced a reduction in the value added tax (VAT) on petrol by ₹2.08 per litre and diesel by ₹1.44 a litre.

Addressing a press conference in the Mantralaya after the State cabinet meeting, Mr. Fadnavis, speaking on the bullet train project, said that Chief Minister Shinde had given all the clearances for the project.

Meanwhile, the new Shinde-Fadnavis government delivered yet another blow to the earlier MVA as it announced that presidents of nagar panchayats and nagar parishads in Maharashtra will now be elected directly by the people.

Mr. Shinde also announced that the Cabinet had approved the direct election of sarpanches of the gram panchayats in the State.

Sinha accuses BJP of trying to buy MLAs

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
RAIPUR

A press conference organised by the Congress for the Opposition parties' Presidential candidate Yashwant Sinha on Thursday in Bhopal was dominated by allegations of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) bribing legislators to vote in favour of the National Democratic Alliance's nominee Droupadi Murmu on July 18.

While Mr. Sinha accused the BJP of offering a "huge sum of money to non-BJP MLAs" to vote against him, Congress State president and former Chief Minister Kamal Nath said that the BJP had approached a Congress MLA with an offer of ₹1 crore.

"Can there be a bigger crime in democracy than buying MLAs? I was taken aback to read a news item headlined 'BJP eyeing 26 tribal MLAs of Congress, cross-voting preparations on' in a leading daily. One of the Congress MLAs described how much pressure he was under during my meeting with legislators. Do we want this kind of politics in India," asked Mr. Sinha.

Festive meet: Droupadi Murmu greets Nitin Gadkari in Mumbai, as Eknath Shinde and Devendra Fadnavis look on. • PTI

Murmu will get record number of votes: Shinde

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

The Bharatiya Janata Party-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) presidential candidate Droupadi Murmu would receive a record number of votes from Maharashtra in the July 18 presidential election, asserted the leadership of the new BJP-Shiv Sena government led by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

Ms. Murmu, who arrived in Mumbai on Thursday afternoon, was received by Mr. Shinde and Mr. Fadnavis at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.

She later met and interacted with BJP MPs and MLAs as well as legislators of Mr. Shinde's rebel Shiv Sena faction. Union Minister and senior BJP leader Nitin Gadkari was also present.

Mr. Shinde, Mr. Fadnavis and Mr. Gadkari said that Ms. Murmu would get more votes from Maharashtra than in any of the NDA-ruled states. They further said that Prime Minister Modi had made the country proud by giving an opportunity to a person from the tribal community to become President of the country. In her address, Ms. Murmu lauded the State's progress in every sector – industry, trade, education, agriculture – while remarking she was grateful for the support given by the MLAs and MPs.

Congress set to advance Bharat Jodo Yatra date

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday appealed to all Opposition parties and civil society groups who believe that the country's democracy is in peril to join its Bharat Jodo Yatra. The party also announced that it may hold the yatra earlier than the schedule announced post the Udaipur conference.

After a meeting of presidents of all State units, heads of frontal organisations of the party and other office-bearers that went on for two hours, party general secretary Jairam Ramesh and senior leader Digivijay Singh, who chairs the coordination committee for the yatra briefed reporters.

Mr. Ramesh said, "It had been announced in the *Nav Sankalp* in the Udaipur Chintan Shivir that the Bharat Jodo Yatra will begin on October 2, 2022. However, given the repeated and intensifying attacks on our democracy, our country's Constitution, the nation's institutions and the social fabric of our society by the Modi Sarkar and the BJP, the Congress party is now exploring the possibility of starting the Bharat Jodo Yatra earlier."

The Bharat Jodo Yatra will cover a distance of around 3,500 km from Kanyakumari to Kashmir and go through about 12 States and two Union Territories. It will go on for nearly 150 days. Both Mr. Singh and Mr. Ramesh were non-committal to the questions on whether Rahul Gandhi or the present President Sonia Gandhi will lead the yatra. To repeated questions, Mr. Singh, said, that all members of the party will participate in the yatra.

Prachanda to visit BJP HQ, meet Nadda on Sunday

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The former Prime Minister of Nepal and chair of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist Centre), Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', will be meeting with BJP president J.P. Nadda in New Delhi on Sunday.

Mr. Dahal, who is expected to arrive in the city on Friday, will be visiting the BJP headquarters at the invitation of Mr. Nadda, confirmed BJP foreign affairs cell convenor Vijay Chauthaiwale. "Prachanda will be meeting with BJP president J.P. Nadda on Sunday as part of the 'Know the BJP' programme that had been launched with a view to increasing understanding about the party among those outside India," said Mr. Chauthaiwale. Mr. Dahal's visit follows Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba's visit to the BJP headquarters earlier in the year.

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WALK-IN-INTERVIEW

The Regional Institute of Education, Mysuru will conduct Walk-in-Interview on the dates as shown against each post purely on contractual basis for the Academic Session 2022-23.

Sl. No.	Name of the Posts	Date of Interviews
1	Professor, Assistant Professor, Medical Officer (Part Time)	21st July 2022
2	TGT, Consultant, Technician Gr-I Laboratory Assistant Junior Project Fellow & Course Administrator	22nd July 2022

For more details please log on to **www.riemysore.ac.in**

Sd/- Principal

AFD CITIIS

GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
SPECIAL BUILDINGS DIVISION-II, PWD, PUDUCHERRY

No.10/PW/SBD-II/DB/Tender/2022-23 Dated 17.06.2022

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

On behalf of the President of India, e-Tender is invited for **"Package-3:** Comprehensive Development of Lambert Saravanan Nagar Housing Project and Improvement to the Gorimedu Drain at Jeevanandhapuram costing **Rs.29,31,14,643/-** (inclusive of GST) in Puducherry under CITIIS Scheme of PSCDL **(3rd Call)**. Further details please refer the website **https://pudutenders.gov.in** from **05.00 P.M on 19.07.2022.**

Executive Engineer

No.181/DIP/AD(Press)/2022-23

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS
in Medical Sciences
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY CUM ENTRANCE TEST-SUPERSPECIALTY
NEET-SS 2022

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test – Superspecialty (NEET-SS) 2022 on **1st and 2nd September 2022**.

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website https://nbe.edu.in and https://natboard.edu.in for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	15th July 2022 onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	15th July 2022 to 4th August 2022
Date of Examination	1st and 2nd September 2022
Declaration of the Result	by 15th September 2022

Candidate Care Support: +91-22-61087595 • Helpline Portal on applicant login page • Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002
Website: www.insaindia.res.in

DEPUTATION OF INDIAN SCIENTISTS ABROAD
UNDER BILATERAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME 2023

Applications are invited from outstanding scientists/ researchers holding Ph.D. degree and having regular **(permanent)** positions in recognized S&T institutions/universities and actively engaged in research in frontline areas for deputation abroad during the Calendar year 2023 in all fields of Science including Engineering, Medicine & Agriculture for short term visits (1-4 weeks for senior scientists) and long term visits (3 months for junior/younger scientists) under the Scientific Bilateral Exchange Programme with overseas Academies/Organizations in **Brazil, Hungary, Israel, Poland, Scotland and Republic of Slovenia.**

The detailed guidelines and application form can be downloaded from **download form section of http://www.insaindia.res.in**. The hard copy of application duly completed and endorsed by the Head of the Institution should be submitted latest by **August 31, 2022 to Assistant Executive Director-I (International), Indian National Science Academy, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110002**. The soft copy of complete application **(single PDF file only)** can be sent via email to: **intacademy@insa.nic.in**, and mention your **Name, Area of Research and Proposed Country** in the subject line of email. Incomplete applications will be rejected and no further correspondence shall be made.

Assistant Executive Director-I (International)

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Website : www.ospcboard.org

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA
[DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII
Bhubaneswar - 751 012, INDIA

No. 12059/ I-ESTT/M/____/2014 Date : 11.07.2022

NOTICE

It is for information of all concerned that 05 Nos. candidates bearing following ID numbers have been shortlisted for the physical verification of original certificates/ documents and Viva-voce test to determine their eligibility and suitability for the recruitment to the post of Asst. Law Officer pursuant to Advertisement No. 20645 Dt. 23.12.2021. The documents verification shall be held in the office of the SPC Board, Odisha, Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit - VIII, Bhubaneswar - 751 012, INDIA, as per the following programme detailed below against each candidates bearing ID numbers.

PROGRAMME OF DOCUMENT VERIFICATION/ VIVA-VOCE TEST FOR THE POST OF ASST. LAW OFFICER.

Sl. No.	Date	Reporting time	ID Numbers of Candidates
01	30.07.2022	9.00 AM	OSPCB0008728, OSPCB0007980, OSPCB0007660, OSPCB0008048, OSPCB0007918

The candidates required to bring one set of self-attested photocopies of all the documents along-with all the original documents for verification as mentioned below.

1) Hard copy of the online Application Form. (2) Three recent passport size photographs. (3) All the original educational qualification certificates from HSC or **Degree in Law.** Five years of experience as practicing lawyer in the Bar is **essential** (4) Odia test certificates (5) Caste certificate claim as ST/ SC/ SEBC wherever applicable (6) Permanent Disability Certificate (including percentage of permanent disability i.e. 40% more) (7) Sports Persons certificate issued by the Director of Sports Odisha (8) Any proof of Identity Aadhar Card, Voter Card, Pan Card & Driving License (9) Experience certificate etc.

It is also made clear that the candidature of these candidates for the recruitment is purely provisional. The candidature is liable for rejection in the event of inadequacy/ deficiency found at any state during or after the selection process and is subject to fulfillment of the term and conditions in the advertisement. Mere participation in the document verification doesn't reserve any right for selection. The concerned candidates will personally appear at his/ her cost. The SPC Board is not bear TA, DA cost to the candidate.

Sd/-
Member Secretary

No unusual sick leave by staff: SpiceJet

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A small section of SpiceJet pilots are said to have reported sick on Thursday as a mark of protest, but their campaign failed to make a noticeable impact on the airline's operations.

SpiceJet, in a statement, denied that there was any unusual sick reporting, and claimed that its flights departed as per schedule.

There is widespread discontent among SpiceJet employees over pay cuts and the airline's alleged failure to deposit Provident Fund, as well as tax deducted at source.

Sources among protesting pilots said nearly 43 first officers and captains called in sick on Thursday. The airline has nearly 800 pilots.

"A concerted misinformation campaign is being run against SpiceJet claiming that some pilots reported sick today. This information is wrong, baseless and is strongly denied," the airline said.

Ensure testing for monkeypox, Health Ministry tells States

'Screen likely cases at entry points, identify hospitals & ready adequate staff'

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Health Ministry, in a communication to stakeholders on Thursday, said that while the COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose challenges, it was vital that the States remain aware, alert and ready to tackle other public health threats such as monkeypox, which is on the rise globally.

The Ministry said the uptake of precaution dose of Sputnik V was only 0.5% of those who are due for it. It advised the States to ensure availability of the Sputnik precaution dose in private vaccination centres. The State were advised to reach out to beneficiaries to take the precaution dose.

In a letter to stakeholders, Health Secretary Rajesh Bhushan said the States must ensure screening and testing of all likely cases of monkeypox at points of entry and in the community as part of India's preparedness against the disease.

New worry: Over 3,000 monkeypox cases have been reported globally from January to mid-June • GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

The States and the Union Territories are required to identify hospitals and ensure adequate human resources and logistic support to manage any suspected or confirmed monkeypox case.

One fatality recorded

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that from January 1 to June 22, a total of 3,413 laboratory-confirmed monkeypox cases and one death have been reported to it from 50 countries and territories.

A majority of these cases have been reported from the European region (86%) and the Americas (11%).

"Considering this is the first time that cases and clusters are being reported concurrently in five WHO Regions, the global health body has assessed the overall risk of spread of cases as 'moderate at the global level'. Continued expansion of monkeypox disease globally calls for proactive strengthening and operationalisation of requisite public health actions for preparedness and response against the disease in India also," Mr. Bhushan said.

COVID-19 challenge

As the COVID-19 pandemic continued to pose challenges, it was vital to remain aware of other public health threats and proactively prepare ourselves to tackle them, he said.

Mr. Bhushan said that to increase the uptake of precaution dose of Sputnik-V vaccine by the due beneficiaries, the States should ensure availability of its component I. Private vaccination centres, which were providing Sputnik-V, should also reach out to the beneficiaries, he said.

Debut edition of CUET-UG to begin today in 500 cities

14.9 lakh aspirants have registered for entrance test

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The debut edition of the Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate will begin on Friday at test centres in over 510 cities of India and abroad.

With 14.9 lakh registrations, the CUET, the common gateway for undergraduate admission in all Central universities, is now the second biggest entrance exam surpassing the average registration of nine lakh of the Joint Entrance Examination (Main).

The National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test-Undergraduate is the biggest entrance test in India with an average of 18 lakh registrations.

While the National Testing Agency (NTA) is having a final check of the logistics, the aspirants are an anxious lot, preparing for the exam that will transform the way undergraduate admissions are conducted in the country, especially at popular Central universities such as Delhi University where Class 12 scores had been a decid-

Admission to 45 Central universities will now be based on the CUET score.

ing factor till now.

Second phase in August

"The CUET (UG)-2022 has been scheduled for approximately 14,90,000 candidates, with around 8.1 lakh candidates in the first slot and 6.8 lakh candidates in the second," University Grants Commission Chairman Jagadesh Kumar said.

The exam will be conducted in two phases. The first phase will be held in July and the second in August. Candidates who have opted for physics, chemistry or biology have been assigned for Phase 2, as the NEET(UG) will be held on July 17.

"The exam will be conducted from July 15 to August 20 at exam centres located in over 500 cities across India and 10 cities abroad," Mr. Kumar said.

Elaborating on the format of the score, Mr. Kumar said it would be in percentile format. "The score will indicate the position of a candidate vis-a-vis other candidates who took the test," he said.

The UGC chief announced in March that a CUET score, and not Class 12 marks, would be mandatory for admission to 45 Central universities.

The UGC on Wednesday asked universities to fix a deadline for admission after the CBSE declares its Class 12 exam results.

ED arrests ex-chief of NSE in phone tapping case

She is already in CBI custody

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate on Thursday arrested Chitra Ramkrishna, the former Managing Director of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), in connection with a money laundering investigation related to the alleged illegal phone tapping of NSE employees from 2009 to 2017.

Chitra Ramkrishna

Ms. Ramkrishna was previously in judicial custody in the NSE co-location scam case. Based on a first information report (FIR) registered recently by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), the ED has initiated its probe under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act and arrested her.

In the CBI case, among those arraigned are Ms. Ramkrishna, former NSE Managing Director Ravi Narain, the exchange's the then executive vice-president, Ravi Varanasi, and head (premises) Mahesh Haldipur; former Mumbai Police Commissioner Sanjay Pandey and Delhi-based iSec Services Private Ltd. The company's directors Santosh Pandey, Anand Narayan, Armaan Pandey and Manish Mittal, its then senior information security analyst Naman Chaturvedi and one Arun Kumar Singh have also been named.

According to the CBI, the case was registered on a reference from the Ministry of Home Affairs about the alleged illegal interception of NSE employees' telephones conducted by its top management in conspiracy with iSec Services.

Staff phones intercepted

"It was alleged that during 2009-17, then MD [Mr. Narain], then DMD [Ms. Ramkrishna], then executive vice-president and then head (premises) of the NSE and the private company conspired to illegally intercept the telephones of NSE employees," the agency had earlier said. The company was engaged by the accused officials on the pretext of carrying out a "periodic study of cyber vulnerabilities" at the NSE. The transcripts of intercepted calls were allegedly provided by the company to them. About ₹4.45 crore was paid for the job, the CBI has alleged.

Earlier this year, the CBI arrested Ms. Ramkrishna and the then group operating officer Anand Subramanian in the co-location "scam" case.

India to give land for I2U2-backed food parks

Private parties to fund projects for food security

KALLOL BHATTACHERJEE
NEW DELHI

India will provide "appropriate land" for "food parks" across the country that will be built in collaboration with Israel, the United States and the United Arab Emirates. The plan for the "integrated food parks" was announced in a joint statement after the leaders of the I2U2 grouping – India, Israel, the UAE and the U.S. – held a summit on Thursday. The leaders said they would bring in private capital for specific projects in the fields of water, energy, transportation, health, space and food security.

Common concerns: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the I2U2 virtual summit from New Delhi on Thursday. • PTI

"U.S. and Israeli private sectors will be invited to lend their expertise and offer innovative solutions that contribute to the overall sustainability of the project. These investments will help maximise crop yields which, in turn, will help tackle food insecurity in South Asia and the Middle East," said the joint statement, adding that India will "facilitate farmers' integration into the food parks. In his comments at the event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "Right from the first summit held today, I2U2 has established a positive agenda."

The food parks aimed at cutting down "food waste and spoilage" are a few of the collaborations that the four countries declared after Thursday's summit that was hosted by Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and included UAE's President Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, U.S. President Joe Biden and Mr. Modi.

The UAE will invest $2 billion in India to create the food parks, the joint statement announced.

To a question from *The Hindu* on whether farmers were consulted before the declaration of the "integrated food park" project, Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said: "When the specific food corridor project is implemented and the manner of its implementation (is on the table), we will naturally ensure that all the stakeholders involved in this process are taken on board and consulted before this project is implemented."

Asked how India would provide land for such a project, an official who has been part of the consultation process said that as of now, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat had come forward to participate in the project and that other States were also expected to join in.

Draft disability policy open for feedback

DAMINI NATH
NEW DELHI

The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry on Thursday extended the deadline for feedback on its draft national policy on disability from July 15 to August 31, while activists continued to demand its translation into sign language and regional languages.

This was the second extension given by the Ministry's Department of Empowerment of Persons of Disabilities (DEPwD), after a one-week extension was given from July 9 to July 15.

The draft policy said there was a need for revision as the existing policy on disability was drafted in 2006. Since then, there have many changes, including India singing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2007 and Parliament enacting the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Meanwhile, disability rights activists have been seeking a sign language version of the policy. According to PwD sources, a sign language video is likely to be ready by July-end.

In a letter to PwD Department Secretary Anjali Bhawra, the activists said since the draft was not available in sign language and regional languages, a large number of disabled persons were being left out of the consultative process.

'Kolkata not a hub of fake call centres'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

Kolkata Police Commissioner Vineet Kumar Goyal on Thursday, dismissed media reports that the city has emerged as a hub of fake call centres.

"There was a report that a large number of fake call centres are operating out of Kolkata with a daily translation of ₹3,000 crore. This is absolutely nonsense," he told journalists. He, however, admitted that 16 call centres had been raided and closed so far.

Production of vegetables to go up: Centre

Cultivation of spices, medicinal plants may dip

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The total horticulture production in 2021-22 is estimated to be 341.63 million tonnes (MT), an increase of about 7.03 MT or 21% over the 2020-21 figure, according to the second advanced estimates of area and production of various horticultural crops released by the Union Agriculture Ministry here on Thursday.

Last year, the total horticulture cultivation was on 27.48 million hectares and according to the second advanced estimates, in 2021-22, it could be 27.74 million hectares.

Off to the market: Potatoes being harvested near Ghaziabad. • R.V. MOORTHY

The Centre said that while there could be an increase in the production of fruits, vegetables and honey, the cultivation of spices, flowers, medicinal plants and plantation crops could decrease over previous year. "The fruit production is estimated at 107.1 MT compared to 102.48 MT in 2020-21. The production of vegetables is estimated to be 204.61 MT, compared to 200.45 MT in 2020-21," it said in a release.

In the case of onion, the production is estimated to be 31.7 MT against 26.64 MT in 2020-21. Potato production is likely to be 53.58 MT, from 56.17 MT in 2020-21. Tomato yield is expected to be 20.34 MT, from 21.18 MT in 2020-21. Farmers of the three crops had agitated against the drop in prices last year.

Farmers' organisations have also been complaining about scarcity of fertilizers and increase in its price.

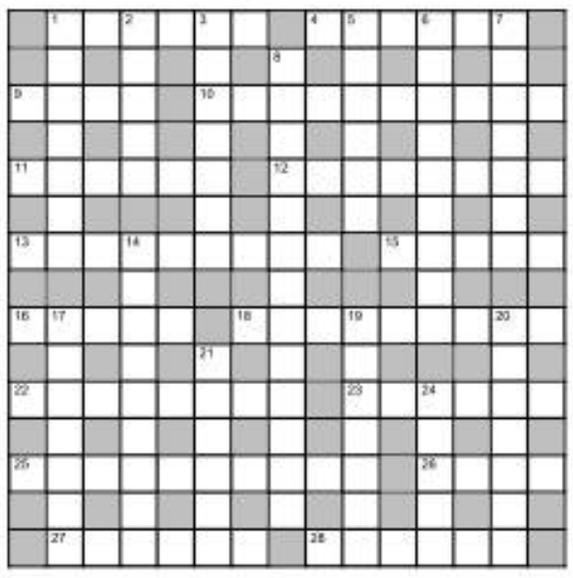
Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said in Bengaluru on Thursday that the country had to depend on the import of fertilizers and the Centre was incurring a subsidy of about ₹2.5 lakh crore annually so that the burden of rising prices globally did not fall on the farmers. "But there must be an end to this situation at some time," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 13609

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Proverbs on one's date and time seen in a school entrance (6)
4 Without working on course... (6)
9 ...gets zero for one in term work (4)
10 Unfair clause of heartless celeb to a card (3,2,5)
11 Dated after a short peck – a fortune (6)
12 Anger in DC. Edward targeted (8)
13 Herb and current sweetheart will be behind lock-up shortly (9)
15 Clever female takes lead from last man for half a century (5)
16 Notices son going to front with a fish (5)
18 Sailor's chest found in judge's or a religious office (9)
22 Soldiers on foot heading to main treasury vault (8)
23 Sailors expend energy, take time to procure part of a flower (6)
25 One new client had a degree, say (10)
26 People of Djibouti at a long distance (4)
27 Disemboweled Dutch found at the end of short passage (6)
28 Cold cut meat, picking second (6)

Down

1 A cat is primarily easy to break up (7)
2 A bar alongside... (5)
3 ...grand old key, part of what is found in palace door (7)
5 English females have zero right for power (6)
6 Choice even in the absence of leader... (9)
7 ...old boys left in house are the finest (7)
8 Dealing is enticing others into sinful ways (7,6)
14 People found in meet follow a covenant (9)
17 Man's call about a trial (7)
19 Worry that microbes, i.e. germs are hiding (7)
20 Between 12 & 20, secret agent recruits two engineers (7)
21 Half of market destroyed, let loose by Holder (6)
24 A battle Ukraine finally is mindful of (5)

SUDOKU

		9	6	7		8		
	7			8	2	1	4	
	1				3	2	7	
	6		8		9		1	
	3	8	5				6	
	5	1	7	4			2	
		7		3	6	5		

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 13608

V	O	T	A	R	Y		T	R	A	N	S	F	E	R
I		U		E		R		I		E		A		E
B	U	R	E	T	H	I	N	G		V	O	C	A	L
A		N		R		C		H		E		E		A
G	H	A	Z	I		I	N	T	E	R	P	R	E	T
E		N		E		N		F				E		E
	S	I	F	V	E		S	U	S	P	E	C	T	S
		C		A		U		L		H		O		
S	P	E	L	L	I	N	G		B	I	N	G	O	
C		D				C		S		L		N		C
A	P	O	S	T	D	L	I	C		O	X	I	D	E
N		L		W		E		O		L		Y		M
D	O	L	C	E		J	A	R	S	O	N	I	S	E
A		A		A		O		E		G		O		N
L	O	R	I	K	E	E	T		C	Y	G	N	E	T

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	2	6	3	7	5	9	4	8
4	7	8	9	1	2	5	3	6
3	5	9	8	4	6	1	2	7
9	3	7	6	8	4	2	5	1
8	6	2	1	5	3	7	9	4
5	1	4	7	2	9	6	8	3
2	9	1	4	6	8	3	7	5
6	8	5	2	3	7	4	1	9
7	4	3	5	9	1	8	6	2

FAITH

Sign of Supremacy

Parasara Bhatta, in his Sri Guna Ratna Kosa, refers to Goddess Ranganayaki of Srirangam as a creeper, for which the support is the tree known as Lord Ranganatha. Can the Lord be described as a tree? Yes, because the reference to the Lord as a tree can be traced back to the Upanishads, said Thenthirupperai Aravindalochanan, in a discourse.

Sage Valmiki in Kishkinda Kanda says Lord Rama is a tree, which gives refuge to the virtuous and also to the distressed. Lord Krishna, in the Bhagavad Gita, says, "*asvathah sarva vrikshaanaam*." So Lord Krishna says here that among trees, He is the sacred peepal tree. This tree, namely Ranganatha, is no ordinary tree. The shade given by this tree – *Vaasudeva taruchaaya* – is one that saves us from the heat of samsara. This is the tree which the creeper, namely Goddess Ranganayaki, uses as Her support. As She begins to climb this tree, the Lord's joy knows no bounds. Her eyes are like bees (dhvirepa) which buzz around the flowers in a tree. The word for bee in Sanskrit is brahmara. Since the letter 'ra' (repa sabda) occurs twice in this word, a bee is also known as dhvirepa, and that is the word Parasara Bhatta uses here.

The divine glances of the Goddess direct the Lord's actions of creation, protection and dissolution. In addition, it is Her presence on His chest, which marks Him as the Supreme One. The Upanishads declare: *hrish ca te lakshmis ca patnyau*. That is, Sri Devi and Bhoo Devi are the Consorts of the Supreme One. Thus, She not only plays a role in the Lord's actions, but is the mark of His Supremacy too. So great is the Goddess, that the Lord is unable to fully fathom Her svarupa or Her auspicious qualities. Parasara Bhatta prays for Her merciful glances to wash over him like waves.

China waits and watches Sri Lanka crisis

Beijing blames the West for debt problems in a number of developing countries in Asia and Africa

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING

China on Thursday declined to say whether it was considering financial assistance to Sri Lanka, continuing a studied silence over the unfolding crisis and what analysts called a "wait and watch" approach.

"As a friendly neighbour and cooperation partner, China sincerely hopes all sectors in Sri Lanka can bear in mind the fundamental interests of the country and people and overcome difficulties to restore stability, revitalise the economy and improve livelihoods, at an early date," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said on Thursday.

In response to a question from *The Hindu* on whether China was considering responding to Sri Lankan requests for financial aid and if talks were ongoing, Mr. Wang declined to say if Beijing was preparing assistance. "China is ready to work with relevant countries and relevant institutions to help Sri Lanka achieve sustainable development and overcome the current difficulties," he said.

While China cultivated close relations with the Rajapaksas, Beijing's broad position, observers said, was that it would work with any regime in Colombo, as it did with the previous Sirisena government.

Debt trap

China is, however, facing more scrutiny over its investments and assistance, and has been pushing back against "debt trap" claims. State media reported this week that China's debt accounted for only around 10%, as did Japan's, and that most of the debt was owed to multilateral institutions.

China has instead sought to blame the West for recent debt problems in a number of developing countries in Asia and Africa. Mr. Wang on Thursday highlighted a new report by the group Debt Justice that showed that of the $696 billion external debt of 49 African governments, 35% was owed to non-Chinese private creditors while 12% was owed to China. "These facts show that the so-called China debt trap... [has been used] by Western lenders to blame China for the crisis in Africa but is a distraction," he said.

The official *China Daily* in an editorial on Sri Lanka said "some Western politicians with ulterior motives have tried to blame China for Sri Lanka's dire situation". "However, China ranks only third among Sri Lanka's creditors after Japan and the Asian Development Bank and accounts for only 10 per cent of its debt."

The newspaper did criticise the Gotabaya Rajapaksa government saying its "flawed policies" had "added to the woes", highlighting the tax cuts and fertilizer bans. Beijing's officials or media haven't offered any support to the embattled Rajapaksas since the protests accelerated.

"China is willing to be quite detached and plays the wait and watch game," noted Vinitha Revi, a scholar who tracks Sri Lanka's relations with India and China. While both India and China were letting events in Sri Lanka play out, there were different motivations. "India has to be more sensitive given the history, proximality, close ties. China is more pragmatic. Once there is political stability, they are able to get in very quickly. It will be difficult for any government to say no to Chinese investment."

However, Ms. Revi added, China has found itself facing "heightened scrutiny". "Commentators are saying they are willing to invest in huge infrastructure projects but what about during this crisis?"

India has stepped in with over $3.5 billion, while China in May announced a $74 million grant. Beijing hasn't yet responded to Sri Lankan requests for more assistance.

A reminder

The crisis and Sri Lanka's economic mismanagement, Chinese scholar Lin Minwang told the *South China Morning Post*, was a "reminder" for Chinese investors. "In the short run, there will be a big impact on China's relations with Sri Lanka because the influence of the Rajapaksa family in Sri Lanka's political circles will be undermined and a political comeback will be unlikely in the near future," he said.

"I won't call it a lesson but it is a reminder that local governance competence should be taken into consideration when investing overseas."

Moving on: Protesters adjusting the table inside Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe's office as they prepare to vacate the building in Colombo on Thursday. •REUTERS

Protesters end occupation of buildings

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's anti-government demonstrators said on Thursday they were ending their occupation of official buildings, as they vowed to press on with their bid to bring down the President and the Prime Minister in the face of a dire economic crisis. A spokeswoman for the protesters said: "We are peacefully withdrawing from the Presidential Palace, the Presidential Secretariat and the Prime Minister's Office with immediate effect, but will continue our struggle."

A top Buddhist monk who has supported the protests had earlier called for the more than 200-years-old presidential palace to be handed back to authorities and ensure its valuable art and artefacts were preserved. "This building is a national treasure and it should be protected," monk Omalpe Sobitha told reporters. "There must be a proper audit and the property given back to the state."

U.S. vows to use all means to stop Iran nuclear bomb

President Biden signs new security pact with Israel PM Lapid

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
JERUSALEM

The U.S. and Israel signed a new security pact on Thursday reinforcing their common front against Iran, as President Joe Biden pledged to use "all" American power to stop the Islamic republic from acquiring nuclear weapons.

The Jerusalem Declaration on joint security was inked by Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid and Biden, as the U.S. leader was making his first trip to West Asia as President.

It commits the United States to "never to allow Iran to acquire a nuclear weapon", stating that it "is prepared to use all elements of its national power to ensure that outcome".

'Can't wait forever'

A landmark deal that imposed curbs on Iran's suspect nuclear programme in exchange for sanctions relief was torpedoed in 2018 by former U.S. president Donald Trump. Efforts to revive the accord have been stalled since March.

Asked on Thursday how long the U.S. was prepared to give those efforts, Mr. Biden said "we're not going to wait forever" for a response from the Islamic republic.

Israel, which has West Asia's sole but undeclared nuclear arsenal, is staunchly opposed to the deal with Iran, which has always denied seeking the bomb.

Mr. Lapid warned "words" and "diplomacy" were not enough to thwart Iran's alleged nuclear ambitions.

"Diplomacy will not stop them. The only thing that will stop Iran is knowing that if they continue to develop their nuclear programme the free world will use force. The only way to stop them is to put a credible military threat on the table," Mr. Lapid told reporters alongside Mr. Biden.

Strong bond: U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli PM Yair Lapid signing a joint declaration in Jerusalem on Thursday. •AP

Harsh response: Iran

Reacting to the pact, Iran warned the United States and its allies on Thursday against undermining regional security.

"I tell the Americans and their regional allies that the Iranian nation will not accept any crisis or insecurity in the region, and that any mistake made in this region will be met with a harsh and regrettable response," Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi said in televised remarks.

Zelensky urges 'special tribunal' for Russia

20 killed in central Ukrainian city

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KYIV

Russian missiles struck Vinnytsia in central Ukraine on Thursday, killing at least 20 people, including three children, in what President Volodymyr Zelensky called "an open act of terrorism".

The midday attack on the city hundreds of kilometres from the frontlines and invading Russian troops came as EU officials convened in The Hague to discuss war crimes in Ukraine.

The charred remains of upturned cars surround by burnt debris were seen in images distributed by officials next to a business gutted by a fire with brown smoke billowing nearby.

"There were eight rockets, two of which hit the centre of the city. Twenty people have died, including three children. There a large, large number of wounded," Mr. Zelensky said during an address European official at The Hague.

The Ukrainian leader led a moment of silence before urging European and International Criminal Court officials during an address to open a "special tribunal" into Russia's invasion.

"I believe it is inevitable that International Criminal Court will bring accountability to those guilty of crimes under its jurisdiction: war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide."

Sunak leads race, Mordaunt strong second

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Former Finance Minister Rishi Sunak came out on top in the second round of voting on Thursday by Conservative MPs to decide Britain's next Prime Minister, followed by bookmaker favourite Penny Mordaunt.

The little-known Ms. Mordaunt again came a strong second with 83 votes, behind Mr. Sunak with 101.

Foreign Secretary Liz Truss was third with 64.

Attorney-General Suella Braverman was eliminated from the race after coming last, with the five remaining candidates proceeding to the next round of voting by Tory MPs on Monday.

IMF agrees to resume Pak. loan after fuel, tax hikes

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ISLAMABAD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Thursday it had agreed with Pakistan to resume a suspended loan programme that will inject $1.17 billion into the struggling economy.

A statement from the IMF said a "staff level agreement" – which is still subject to board approval – will bring to $4.2 billion the amount dispersed under an extended fund facility (EFF) that could increase to $7 billion and stretch until June next year.

An original $6 billion bailout package was signed by former Prime Minister Imran Khan in 2019, but repeatedly stalled when his government reneged on subsidy agreements and failed to significantly improve tax collection.

The new agreement follows months of deeply unpopular belt-tightening by the government of Shehbaz Sharif, which took power in April and has effectively eliminated fuel subsidies and introduced new measures to broaden the tax base. "Pakistan is at a challenging economic juncture," Nathan Porter, who headed the IMF team, said in a statement, adding external factors and domestic policies were to blame.

Draghi's resignation rejected

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROME

Italian Premier Mario Draghi offered to step down on Thursday after a populist coalition ally refused to support a key government Bill, but the nation's President rejected the resignation, telling Mr. Draghi to see if he can still find a majority in Parliament willing to support him.

Mr. Draghi's broad unity coalition government – which includes parties from the right, the left, the centre and the populist 5-Star Movement – was designed to help Italy recover from the coronavirus pandemic. He took office in February 2021.

Hours earlier, Mr.Draghi and his government won a confidence vote, 172-39, in the Senate despite the refusal by the 5-Star Movement to back the Bill, which earmarked 26 billion euros to help consumers and industries struggling with soaring energy prices. But the snub, orchestrated by 5-Star leader Giuseppe Conte, Mr. Draghi's predecessor, did its damage.

Shortly before heading to the Quirinal presidential palace to tender his resignation, Mr. Draghi declared: "The majority of national unity that has sustained this government from its creation doesn't exist any more."

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TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) Single Phase Portable Relay Testing Kits (b) 12V SMF VRLA Battery of various AH capacity (Flat Pasted), (c) 4G modems (RMUs, ARs & Sectionalizers), Routers (SS) and (d) 1Cx120 Sq.mm LT XLPE cable on e-tender platform. For further details of each item above, please visit **www.tssouthernpower.com** **www.tender.telangana.gov.in** ' Phone: 040-23431319, 1035, 1026

Phone: 040-23431319, 1035, 1026

Sd/-
R.O. No. : 408-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2022-23 Date: 14-07-2022 CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P & MM)

APPOINTMENT

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ
(An Organisation of the Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India)
Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj is a premier Institute of national and international repute in terms of capacity-building and research in the realm of Rural Development and related aspects. NIRDPR, Hyderabad invites applications through online mode, from qualified and experienced persons for **four (04) positions of Senior Fellow.**

For Job Profile, Eligibility Criteria and other details please visit: **http://career.nirdpr.in/**

Last date for submission of online application is **15.8.2022**

Advt.No.28/2022
File No: NIRDPR/Admin/ Section-I/2022/3
Comp.no. 14209

Sd/-
Assistant Director Administration (Section-I)

BALIAPAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION
BALIAPAL, BALASORE, ODISHA -756026

(Recognized by National Council for Teacher Education and Government of Odisha, Affiliated to Fakir Mohan University, Balasore, U.G.C. under section - 2 (f) & Board of Secondary Education, Odisha)

Notification No:029/BCPE-2022 **Date:13/07/2022**

NOTIFICATION "RECRUITMENT OF FACULTIES"

Baliapal College of Physical Education, Baliapal, Balasore, Odisha invites application for recruitment of following Teaching Faculties. Eligible Candidates may apply in prescribed format available in the college website **www.bcpe.in** and submit the same along with self-attested copies of testimonial and fees for interview call on or before **16/08/2022**.

Name of the Post	No. of Post	Requisite Qualification
Assistant Professor	06	M.P.Ed. or Equivalent Degree with minimum 55% marks
Associate Professor	04	M.P.Ed. with 55% of marks, Minimum 8 years of PG teaching experience, Research experience & minimum 5 publications in shape of books /research/policy papers. (Candidates having NET/ SLET/ M.Phill./ Ph.D. shall be given preference)

For details please visit **www.bcpe.in. Contact : 9437546090**

Sd. **Member Secretary, GB BCPE, Baliapal, Balasore**

EPABX : 2563600
Tel : 2562368 / 2561909
E-mail : paribesh1@ospcboard.org
Website: www.ospcboard.org

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA
[DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII Bhubaneswar-751 012, INDIA

No. 12057 / I-ESTT/M/110/2014 **Date: 11.07.2022**

NOTICE

It is for information of all concerned that 65 nos. candidates bearing following ID numbers have been shortlisted for the physical verification of original certificates / documents and Viva-voce test to determine their eligibility and suitability for the recruitment to the post of Assistant Environmental Engineer pursuant to Advertisement No. 20501 Dt.20.12.2021. The documents verification shall be held in the office of the SPC Board, Odisha, Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit - VIII, Bhubaneswar - 751 012, INDIA, as per the following programme detailed below against each candidates bearing ID numbers.

PROGRAMME OF DOCUMENT VERIFICATION / VIVA-VOCE TEST FOR THE POST OF ASST. ENV. ENGINEER.

Sl. No.	Date	Reporting time	ID numbers of candidates
01	18.07.2022	9.00 AM	OSPCB0002424, OSPCB0002126, OSPCB0005581 OSPCB0001611, OSPCB0004270, OSPCB0001663, OSPCB0005636, OSPCB0002489, OSPCB0005867, OSPCB0004948, OSPCB0002171, OSPCB0004087, OSPCB0000676, OSPCB0004022, OSPCB0002561, OSPCB0001839, OSPCB0005550, OSPCB0000091, OSPCB0001160, OSPCB0002091
02	19.07.2022	9.00 AM	OSPCB0000494, OSPCB0002460, OSPCB0003951 OSPCB0001844, OSPCB0004400, OSPCB0008229 OSPCB0005461, OSPCB0000299, OSPCB0002450 OSPCB0004801, OSPCB0000336, OSPCB0001697, OSPCB0006099, OSPCB0000797, OSPCB0003693, OSPCB0002009, OSPCB0001448, OSPCB0001584, OSPCB0002633, OSPCB0004252, OSPCB0000707, OSPCB0001432, OSPCB0000405, OSPCB0000561, OSPCB0004234
03	20.07.2022	9.00 AM	OSPCB0006495, OSPCB0004844, OSPCB0005520, OSPCB0002424, OSPCB0008169, OSPCB0003809, OSPCB0006556, OSPCB0005825, OSPCB0008180, OSPCB0003992, OSPCB0001116, OSPCB0005784, OSPCB0003082, OSPCB0006337, OSPCB0003596, OSPCB0007452, OSPCB0002469, OSPCB0002778, OSPCB0004911, OSPCB0002346

The candidates required to bring one set of self-attested photocopies of all the documents along-with all the original documents for verification as mentioned below.

1) Hard copy of the online Application Form. (2) Three recent passport size photographs. (3) All the original educational qualification certificates from HSC or equivalent certificate to BE / B.Tech / AMIE (Section A & B) (4) Odia test certificates (5) Caste certificate claim as ST /SC /SEBC wherever applicable (6) Permanent Disability Certificate (including percentage of permanent disability i.e.40% more) (7) Sports Persons certificate issued by the Director of Sports Odisha. (8) Any proof of Identity Aadhar Card, Voter Card, Pan Card & Driving License & (9) Experience certificate etc.

It is also made clear that the candidature of these candidates for the recruitment is purely provisional. The candidature is liable for rejection in the event of inadequacy / deficiency found at any state during or after the selection process and is subject to fulfillment of the term and conditions in the advertisement. Mere participation in the document verification doesn't reserve any right for selection. The concerned candidates will personally appear at his / her cost. The SPC Board is not bear TA, DA cost to the candidate.

Sd/- **Member Secretary**

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Website: www.ospcboard.org

STATE POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, ODISHA
[DEPARTMENT OF FOREST, ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE DEPARTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA]
Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit-VIII, Bhubaneswar-751 012, INDIA

No. 12058 / I-ESTT/M/ /2014 **Date: 11.07.2022**

NOTICE

It is for information of all concerned that 110 nos. candidates bearing following ID numbers have been shortlisted for the physical verification of original certificates / documents and Viva-voce test to determine their eligibility and suitability for the recruitment to the post of Asst. Env. Scientist pursuant to Advertisement No. 20499 Dt.20.12.2021. The documents verification shall be held in the office of the SPC Board, Odisha, Paribesh Bhawan, A/118, Nilakantha Nagar, Unit - VIII, Bhubaneswar - 751 012, INDIA, as per the following programme detailed below against each candidates bearing ID numbers.

PROGRAMME OF DOCUMENT VERIFICATION / VIVA-VOCE TEST FOR THE POST OF ASST. ENV. SCIENTIST

Sl. No.	Date	Reporting time	ID numbers of candidates
01	21.07.2022	9.00 A.M	OSPCB0002805, OSPCB0003337, OSPCB0004823 OSPCB0003009, OSPCB0006309, OSPCB0002393, OSPCB0005536, OSPCB0005643, OSPCB0007340 OSPCB0000856, OSPCB0002001, OSPCB0007335, OSPCB0006476,OSPCB0006458, OSPCB0005916, OSPCB0000914, OSPCB0002083, OSPCB0002447, OSPCB0002121, OSPCB0003450
02	22.07.2022	9.00 A.M	OSPCB0001072,OSPCB0004717, OSPCB0001877, OSPCB0006360,OSPCB0001122, OSPCB0004760, OSPCB0003234, OSPCB0001437, OSPCB0001986, OSPCB0001277, OSPCB0002319, OSPCB0007510, OSPCB0000396, OSPCB0006700, OSPCB0001406, OSPCB0000219, OSPCB0002162, OSPCB0003924, OSPCB0005348, OSPCB0004474
03	26.07.2022	9.00 A.M	OSPCB0001841, OSPCB0002029, OSPCB0007346 OSPCB0002050, OSPCB0002422, OSPCB0003026, OSPCB0004127, OSPCB0005843, OSPCB0000731, OSPCB0004645 OSPCB0008150, OSPCB0008390, OSPCB0002789, OSPCB0006708, OSPCB0004267, OSPCB0007019, OSPCB0002435, OSPCB0001722, OSPCB0002345, OSPCB0005379
04	27.07.2022	9.00 A.M	OSPCB0008370, OSPCB0001461, OSPCB0002397 OSPCB0001030, OSPCB0001685, OSPCB0006790 OSPCB0000356, OSPCB0005315, OSPCB0006851 OSPCB0003956, OSPCB0002694, OSPCB0004777 OSPCB0006732, OSPCB0007345, OSPCB0005540 OSPCB0006286, OSPCB0001656, OSPCB0002855 OSPCB0005609, OSPCB0007636
05	28.07.2022	9.00AM	OSPCB0002974, OSPCB0006988, OSPCB0004467 OSPCB0004542, OSPCB0001890, OSPCB0004955 OSPCB0005701, OSPCB0000119, OSPCB0000852 OSPCB0001431, OSPCB0005746, OSPCB0003802 OSPCB0005681, OSPCB0005878, OSPCB0007164
06	29.07.2022	9.00 AM	OSPCB0002106, OSPCB0002738, OSPCB0007490 OSPCB0005499, OSPCB0007368, OSPCB0000549 OSPCB0001151, OSPCB0005061, OSPCB0001953 OSPCB0001021, OSPCB0002961, OSPCB0007182 OSPCB0004069, OSPCB0004697, OSPCB0004660

The candidates required to bring one set of self-attested photocopies of all the documents along-with all the original documents for verification as mentioned below.

1) Hard copy of the online Application Form. (2) Three recent passport size photographs. (3) All the original educational qualification certificates from HSC or equivalent certificate to M.Tech, M.Phil, Ph.D M.Sc (4) Odia test certificates (5) Caste certificate claim as ST /SC /SEBC wherever applicable (6) Permanent Disability Certificate (including percentage of permanent disability i.e.40% more) (7) Sports Persons certificate issued by the Director of Sports Odisha (8) Any proof of Identity Aadhar Card, Voter Card, Pan Card & Driving License & (9) Experience certificate etc.

It is also made clear that the candidature of these candidates for the recruitment is purely provisional. The candidature is liable for rejection in the event of inadequacy / deficiency found at any state during or after the selection process and is subject to fulfillment of the term and conditions in the advertisement. Mere participation in the document verification doesn't reserve any right for selection. The concerned candidates will personally appear at his / her cost. The SPC Board is not bear TA, DA cost to the candidate.

Sd/- **Member Secretary**

MARKET WATCH

	14-07-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	53,416	-0.18
US Dollar	79.99	-0.23
Gold	50,314	-0.34
Brent oil	97.24	-1.33

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	724.45	-2.30
Apollo Hosp	3898.05	29.75
Asian Paints	2939.15	-2.05
Axis Bank	668.25	-11.65
Bajaj Auto	3863.20	2.45
Bajaj Finserv	11726.25	-43.95
Bajaj Finance	5830.85	-48.05
Bharti Airtel	641.65	-1.85
BPCL	306.15	-4.35
Britannia Ind	3774.15	48.15
Cipla	951.15	-2.20
Coal India	192.00	-1.45
Divis Lab	3733.80	-45.00
Dr Reddys Lab	4575.40	73.80
Eicher Motors	2955.10	-12.30
Grasim Ind	1391.80	-7.15
HCL Tech	903.00	-14.75
HDFC	2167.40	2.35
HDFC Bank	1351.05	-6.80
HDFC Life	537.15	-2.35
Hero MotoCorp	2792.80	-50.55
Hindalco	349.10	0.20
Hind Unilever	2497.80	0.05
ICICI Bank	752.40	-0.80
Indusind Bank	820.90	1.85
Infosys	1428.85	-15.60
ITC	290.85	-3.20
JSW Steel	584.00	-4.60
Kotak Bank	1770.05	28.00
L&T	1646.15	-1.10
M&M	1142.65	2.30
Maruti Suzuki	8567.75	127.55
Nestle India Ltd.	18363.30	113.65
NTPC	148.30	-0.30
ONGC	127.15	2.70
PowerGrid Corp	214.85	0.40
Reliance Ind	2397.15	19.60
SBI Life	1138.95	-0.90
State Bank	479.35	-7.15
Shree Cement	19562.70	-173.35
Sun Pharma	879.90	19.75
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	765.85	3.10
Tata Motors	428.05	0.95
Tata Steel	908.00	3.15
TCS	2998.75	-40.00
Tech Mahindra	975.80	-14.25
Titan	2127.45	16.05
UltraTech Cement	5735.05	-63.90
UPL	670.15	-9.35
Wipro	401.45	-5.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 14

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	79.68	80.00
Euro	79.77	80.09
British Pound	94.18	94.56
Japanese Yen (100)	57.28	57.51
Chinese Yuan	11.81	11.85
Swiss Franc	80.94	81.27
Singapore Dollar	56.73	56.97
Canadian Dollar	60.68	60.92
Malaysian Ringgit	17.92	18.01
Australian Dollar	53.48	53.71

Source: Indian Bank

Trade deficit widens to record $26.1 bn

Runaway gold, coal purchases swell June imports, offset 23.5% growth in exports to $40.1 billion

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's merchandise trade deficit widened to a record $26.18 billion in June, wider than the government's earlier estimate of $25.63 billion, after the Commerce Ministry revised upwards both the exports and imports figures for the month.

While goods exports increased 23.5% year-on-year to exceed $40.1 billion (preliminary estimate was $38 billion), imports outpaced, surging 57.5% to $66.3 billion on the back of higher purchases of coal, gold and petroleum products.

The previous record monthly merchandise trade deficit was $24.3 billion in May. Last month's trade deficit was almost three times as wide as the $9.6 billion shortfall recorded in June 2021.

Cloudy horizon: Export growth may slow down amid a weaker outlook for the global economy, says Nayar. • K. K. MUSTAFAH

Import figures for coal, gold and petroleum products saw significant upward revisions from the preliminary estimates. Coal imports jumped almost fourfold to $6.76 billion while gold imports almost trebled to surpass $2.7 billion. Petroleum imports climbed 99.5% to $21.3 billion.

Excluding petroleum and gems and jewellery, imports were up 38.3% at $38.53 billion in June. Stripping out the same items from the export data, meant exports of other products grew by a single digit of 8.65% to about $28 billion.

In the export basket, engineering goods and drugs and pharmaceuticals, that were earlier estimated to have recorded falls, actually clocked 3% and 4.8% increases in shipments, respectively.

Petroleum exports were up 119% at $8.6 billion, while electronic goods' exports jumped 60.7% to $1.67 billion. Rice exports soared 43% to cross the $1 billion mark, while the employment-intensive readymade garments sector clocked a 50% uptick in exports. Cotton yarn and handloom products, as well as plastic and linoleum, which among India's top 10 export commodities, contracted 19.5% and 20%, respectively.

The first quarter of 2022-23 thus witnessed a 24.5% rise in exports to $118.96 billion, while imports rose 49.5% to $189.76 billion. The trade deficit for the April-June three-month period widened to $70.8 billion.

'Commodity prices'

"While the upwardly revised merchandise trade deficit for June 2022 poses some upside risks to the current account deficit for the first quarter... the correction in commodity prices has softened the outlook for the ongoing quarter," said ICRA chief economist Aditi Nayar.

However, she cautioned that export growth may see a slowdown amidst a weaker outlook for the global economy. "We foresee modest downsides to our current account deficit forecast for this year of $105 billion, or 3% of GDP," she noted.

Wholesale price rise eased to 3-month low of 15.2% in June

Food inflation surged to 12.4%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Inflation in wholesale prices moderated marginally from the record 15.88% pace in May to 15.18% in June, as a slight deceleration in the price rise of manufactured products, fuel and power as well as primary articles was offset by a surge in food price inflation to 12.41%, from 10.89% in May.

June's wholesale inflation rate is the lowest in three months as the Commerce and Industry Ministry revised April's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) to reflect a 15.38% price rise that month as opposed to 15.08% estimated earlier. This is the 15th successive month that wholesale price inflation has exceeded the 10% mark.

Despite the reduction in the year-on-year headline rate, there was no change in the overall WPI index on a month-on-month basis.

The Ministry said the high inflation in June was primarily driven by continued gains in the prices of mineral oils, food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, basic metals, chemicals & chemical products and food products, compared with a year earlier.

LPG price rise

With June being the first full month after the excise duty cuts on fuel products in late May, fuel and power inflation dropped a tad, from 40.6% in May to 40.4%.

While diesel inflation eased to a four-month low of 54.9% in June, from 65.2% in May, LPG price rise accelerated to 53.2%, from 47.7% in May. Petrol price inflation moderated a little from May's 58.8% pace to 57.8% in June.

Inflation in food articles moved up to the highest level in several months to 14.4%, from 12.3% in May, driven largely by a sharp surge in inflation for potatoes (39.4%), vegetables (56.75%) and fruits (20.33%). Inflation in cereals remained virtually unchanged at 8% in June, while wheat price rise eased marginally from 10.55% in May to 10.34%. Inflation in manufactured products dropped below 10% after four months, to hit 9.2%.

Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating firm ICRA, attributed the overall easing in inflation to the sharp corrections in the inflation for minerals and basic metals and non-food articles, amid fears of an impending global recession that have hit commodity prices.

"The good news is that the core inflation index (that excludes food and energy prices) declined by 0.7% in month-on-month terms after rising 24 months in a row, and dampened the year-on-year core inflation to single digits at 9.3% after a gap of 13 months," Ms. Nayar said.

Rupee slides 18 paise, closes shy of 80 per dollar

Drop in oil prices curbs rupee's losses

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The rupee edged close to an unprecedented low of 80 against the U.S. currency on Thursday as it depreciated by a little more than 18 paise to settle at 79.9975 as the dollar surged to 24-year highs against a basket of global currencies.

While wholesale inflation remained in double digits for the 15th straight month in June, the expected deterioration in the current account deficit and forex outflows weighed on the local unit.

A sharp correction in crude oil prices in the past few days, however, has allowed a breather for the local currency, analysts said.

"The rupee closed at a record low for the fourth day in a row amid safe-haven demand for the dollar after U.S. inflation surged to a 41-year high," said Dilip Parmar, Analyst, HDFC Securities. "Markets now are pricing [in] aggressive rate hikes from the Federal Reserve."

EU cuts euro zone growth estimate, raises inflation outlook

Inflation expected to peak at 7.6% as war in Ukraine impacts

REUTERS
BRUSSELS

The European Commission cut forecasts for economic growth in the euro zone for this year and 2023 and revised up its estimates for inflation largely due to the impact of the war in Ukraine.

In its quarterly forecast, Brussels confirmed its more downbeat outlook, which it had already discussed with the euro zone Finance Minister. The EU executive now predicts growth of 2.6% this year for the 19-country currency bloc, slightly less than the 2.7% it had forecast in May. But next year, when the impact of the Ukraine war and of higher energy prices

may be felt even more acutely, growth is now forecast to be 1.4%, instead of the 2.3% previously estimated.

"A storm is possible, but we are not there at the moment," EU Economics Commissioner Paolo Gentiloni said, noting that the fall of the euro to parity against the dollar was a major concern largely for developing economies, rather than for the euro zone, because the euro was appreciating against other major currencies.

The Commission also raised its estimates for euro zone inflation, which is now expected to peak at 7.6% before falling to 4% in 2023.

In May, the Commission had forecast prices in the euro zone would rise 6.1% this year and 2.7% in 2023. Brussels warned headline inflation could move even higher if gas prices soared due to Russia cutting off supplies, which might lead to a further downward revision of growth. Risks to the outlook from COVID-19 resurgence could also not be ruled out.

IN BRIEF

'Adani, Israel's Gadot win tender to buy Haifa port'

JERUSALEM

Adani Ports and Israel's Gadot won a tender for the privatisation of the port of Haifa, one of Israel's largest seaports, Israel's Finance Ministry said, promising the deal will lower costs to consumers. The group will buy the port for 4.1 billion shekels ($1.2 billion). REUTERS

Shrem InvIT to acquire 10 more road assets

MUMBAI

Shrem InvIT said it will add 10 road assets in FY22 to grow its annual revenue. Currently, it earns about ₹1,160 crore annually from 24 road assets and post acquisition of the additional assets, the revenue is expected to grow to ₹2,100 crore, an official said.

'Demand for aluminium wheels to rise'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
CHENNAI

Automobile wheel-maker Wheels India Ltd. said it expected the demand for cast aluminium wheels to grow this year.

The company breached the milestone of ₹1,000 crore in exports last year.

The foundation had been built to grow the exports market along with customers in the coming years, chairman S. Ram told shareholders at the company's 63rd annual general meeting.

Wheels India was able to increase production of forged aluminium wheels for sale in Europe and in the United States, according to Mr. Ram.

Embedded value of LIC rises to ₹5.41 lakh crore

Milliman report on value gets nod

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The Indian Embedded Value (IEV) of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has been determined at ₹5,41,492 crore as on March 31, 2022, compared with ₹95,605 crore a year earlier and ₹5,39,686 crore as on September 30, 2021, the insurer said in a filing.

"The IEV as of September 30, 2021 was significantly higher than [in] March 2021 due to the bifurcation of fund that was carried out by LIC pursuant to changes in the LIC Act," it said.

LIC's board on Thursday approved the report on Indian Embedded Value (IEV) as on March 31, 2022.

It had engaged Milliman Advisors LLP for determining the IEV of the LIC of India as on March 31 this year.

There had been a delay in the release of the report and given the market volatility, there was a mark-to-market impact of ₹40,000 crore, top LIC officials said at a virtual press conference.

'Coal price to stay high on supply issues'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Rating agency ICRA on Thursday said it expects price of domestic coal to remain high in the ongoing quarter as well given the supply challenges of the dry fuel during monsoon.

The domestic e-auction premium on coal increased by more than 400% in May, thereby adversely impacting the cost structure of the base metal companies and margins.

"Going forward, given the coal supply challenges during the ongoing monsoon season, the rating agency expects domestic coal prices to remain elevated in the current quarter as well," ICRA said.

Govt. extends RoSCTL plan for garment exports

Scheme extended till March 31, 2024

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
COIMBATORE

The Scheme for Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) will continue for export of garments/apparels, and made-ups till March 31, 2024, according to a press release from the Union Ministry of Textiles.

With a view to boost exports and job creation in the textile sector, the government has approved the continuation of the scheme, the release said.

Chairman of Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) Narendra Goenka said in a press release that the RoSCTL provided a stable and predictable policy regime and helped improve cost efficiency and export competitiveness in the international market.

RoSCTL helped improve export competitiveness, says AEPC chairman Goenka.

After the introduction of GST in 2017, the RoSL (Rebate of State Levies) scheme was replaced by the RoSCTL in March 2019.

Sree Kailas to build ₹150-cr. warehouse

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
CHENNAI

Sree Kailas Group, which is into logistics parks, paper segment and construction & infrastructure, has partnered Indospace to set up a six-lakh sq. ft warehousing and industrial project at Sunguvarchatram, near Sriperumbudur, at an investment of ₹150 crore.

It is the third project of Sree Kailas Group in the State after units in Chennai and Coimbatore.

The new project is coming up on 30 acres of prime industrial land. Work would be completed within 18 months from the date of starting construction, said S. Rajkumar, chairman, Sree Kailas Group.

SPORT

India men's air rifle team takes gold

Climbs to the top of the medals table with three gold, four silver and a bronze

SHOOTING WC

SPORTS BUREAU

India won its third gold through men's air rifle team, but missed three other gold medals in the shooting World Cup in Changwon, Korea, on Thursday.

Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane and Paarth Makhija had a thrilling gold medal match against Korea, prevailing 17-15, which was quite competitive in the first and second stage of qualification as well.

It was the second gold Arjun after his individual gold, and the second for Shahu Mane after the mixed air rifle gold with Mehuli Ghosh.

The women's air rifle team of Ramita Jindal, Elavenil Valarivan and Mehuli Ghosh was beaten by the Koreans 16-10, after having been dominant in the first and second stage of qualification.

On target: Paarth Makhija, Shahu Tushar Mane, Arjun Babuta gave India its third gold. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Italy's men's air pistol team beat Indian trio Shiva Narwal, Naveen and Sagar Dangi 17-15 for the gold. It was another close contest as Italy beat Indian team of Palak Ghulia, Rhythm

Sangwan and Yuvika Tomar 16-12 for the women's air pistol gold.

In mixed trap, the Indian pairs of Preeti Rajak-Prithviraj Tondaiman (135) and Neeru-Bhowneesh Mendiratta (134) finished ninth and tenth respectively.

Overall, it was a good day for India as it jumped to the top of the medals table with three gold, four silver and a bronze.

Korea was second with three gold and a silver, while Serbia slipped from the top to the third spot with its three gold medals.

The results: Air rifle men team: 1. India (Arjun Babuta, Shahu Tushar Mane, Paarth Makhija) 17 (629.7) 942.3; 2. Korea (Bang Seungho, Kim Sangdo, Park Hajun) 15 (627.3) 942.4; 3. Czech Republic 16 (624.9) 939.9; 4. Japan 10 (625.1) 937.1.

Air rifle women team: 1. Korea (Keum Jihyeon, Lee Eunseo, Gwon Dayeong) 16 (627.3) 939.8; 2. India (Ramita Jindal, Elavenil Valarivan, Mehuli Ghosh) 10 (631.5) 941.8; 3. Hungary 16 (625.4) 941.7; 4. Czech Republic 8 (626.2) 934.1.

Air pistol team men: 1. Italy (Paolo Monna, Alessio Torracchi, Luca Tesconi) 17 (582) 863; 2. India (Shiva Narwal, Naveen, Sagar Dangi) 15 (581) 867; 3. Uzbekistan 16 (571) 862; 4. Kazakhstan 14 (572) 862.

Air pistol team women: 1. Korea (Yoo Hyunyoung, Kim Minjung, Kim Bomi) 16 (572) 859; 2. India (Palak Ghulia, Rhythm Sangwan, Yuvika Tomar) 12 (571) 854; 3. Singapore 16 (562) 849; 4. Japan 10 (561) 850.

Saina stuns He, enters quarterfinals

Sindhu, Prannoy and Arjun-Dhruv pair also make the last eight

SINGAPORE OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SINGAPORE

London Olympics bronze medallist Saina Nehwal pulled off a sensational win over Chinese World No. 9 He Bing Jiao in the Singapore Open Super 500 badminton tournament here on Thursday.

The two-time Commonwealth Games gold medallist joined compatriots P.V. Sindhu and H.S. Prannoy in the quarterfinals. Saina prevailed 21-19, 11-21, 21-17 over the fifth-seeded Chinese to make the last eight, her first in a super 500 event in over two-and-a-half years.

The 32-year-old from Hyderabad has been battling a series of injuries and lack of form in the past few years, which forced her to skip the selection trials for the Commonwealth Games, in April.

Breaking a drought: Saina made the last eight of a Super 500 event for the first time in over 2-1/2 years. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the last three years, Saina's best performance has been a semifinal finish at Orleans Master Super 100 last year. She also reached the quarterfinal stage at the Malaysia Masters and Barcelona Spain Masters in 2020.

Third seed Sindhu staved off a spirited challenge from Vietnam's World No. 59 Thuy Linh Nguyen 19-21, 21-19, 21-18 to set up a clash with China's Han Yue.

Prannoy, World No. 19, notched up his second win in three weeks over World No. 4 and third seed Chou Tien Chen of Chinese Taipei 14-21, 22-20, 21-18.

The 29-year-old Indian, who is looking to break his five-year-old title drought, will face Japan's Kodai Naraoka next.

The men's doubles pairing of M.R. Arjun and Dhruv Kapila also entered the quarterfinals, with a stunning 18-21, 24-22, 21-18 win over sixth-seeded Malaysians Goh Sze Fei and Nur Izzuddin.

A day after notching up an upset win over compatriot K. Srikanth, Mithun Manjunath's run ended with a fighting 10-21, 21-18, 16-21 loss to Ireland's Nhat Nguyen.

The results (pre-quarterfinals): Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Chou Tien Chen (Tpe) 14-21, 22-20, 21-18; Nhat Nguyen (Ire) bt Mithun Manjunath 21-10, 18-21, 21-16. **Doubles:** M.R. Arjun & Dhruv Kapila bt Goh Sze Fei & Nur Izzuddin (Mas) 18-21, 24-22, 21-18.

Women: Saina Nehwal bt He Bing Jiao (Chn) 21-19, 11-21, 21-17; P.V. Sindhu bt Thuy Linh Nguyen (Vie) 19-21, 21-19, 21-18; Han Yue (Chn) bt Ashmita Chaliha 21-9, 21-13. **Doubles:** Li Wen Mei & Du Yue (Chn) Pooja Dandu & Arathi Sara Sunil 21-12, 21-6.

Mixed doubles: Mark Lamsfuss & Isabel Lohau (Ger) bt H.V. Nithin & Poorvisha S. Ram 21-14, 21-13.

Topley sizzles with a six-for, England levels series

Chahal's four-wicket haul goes in vain as the home team registers a thumping 100-run victory over India

INDIA IN ENG

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

England hammered India by 100 runs in the second ODI at Lord's on Thursday to level the three-match series at 1-1.

Reece Topley took six for 24, the best figures by any England bowler in an ODI.

India, chasing 247 to win, was dismissed for 146 with more than 11 overs to spare.

Left-arm quick Topley's haul surpassed Paul Collingwood's previous England best of six for 31 against Australia at Trent Bridge in 2005.

The injury-plagued 28-year-old's figures were also the best by any bowler in an ODI at Lord's, beating Pakistan quick Shaheen Shah Afridi's return of 6-35 against Bangladesh in a World Cup match three years ago.

None of the Indian batters got going in an innings in which Hardik Pandya and Ravindra Jadeja were the joint top scorers with 29.

Earlier, India's Yuzvendra Chahal took four wickets as England was bowled out for 246 with an over to spare in the second ODI at Lord's on Thursday.

Two days after pace proved England's undoing during a 10-wicket thrashing in the first of a three-match series at the Oval, leg-spinner Chahal was the team's tormentor-in-chief on the other side of London's River Thames.

He finished with four for 47 from his maximum 10 overs, including a burst of three for 18 in 16 balls that accounted for key batters Jonny Bairstow, Joe Root and Ben Stokes as England slumped from 72 for one to 87 for four.

England, on the third anniversary of their dramatic World Cup final victory at Lord's, was indebted to two players who didn't feature in that match – Moeen Ali and David Willey – for getting past 200.

Chief tormentor: Topley made full use of the conditions to rattle the Indian batting line-up. *Right*: Chahal's impressive show was not enough. • AP & GETTY IMAGES

Partnership

The left-handers put on 62 in 13 overs after coming together at 148 for six after India captain Rohit Sharma won the toss and opted to field first on a green-tinged pitch.

Moeen top-scored with 47 while Willey, who should have been out for one and was dropped again on 23, made 41.

England was unchanged despite a batting collapse on Tuesday that was followed by a mauling for their attack.

India recalled Virat Kohli, who missed the Oval match with a groin problem.

England collapsed to 26 for five inside eight overs at the Oval during a match where India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah took a career-best six for 19. But it avoided similar embarrassment at Lord's.

Jason Roy heaved Mohammed Shami over deep midwicket for six before, on 23, he flicked first-change Hardik straight to deep square leg.

Fellow-opener Jonny Bairstow, one of five England survivors from the World Cup final in Thursday's team along with Roy, Root, Stokes and now captain Jos Buttler, looked in good touch.

But he was bowled for a run-a-ball trying to slog sweep Chahal, who then had Root plumb lbw for 11.

SCOREBOARD

ENGLAND

Jason Roy c Suryakumar b Hardik 23 *(33b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Jonny Bairstow b Chahal 38 *(38b, 6x4)*, Joe Root lbw b Chahal 11 *(21b)*, Ben Stokes lbw b Chahal 21 *(23b, 3x4)*, Jos Buttler b Shami 4 *(5b)*, Liam Livingstone c sub (Shreyas) b Hardik 33 *(33b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Moeen Ali c Jadeja b Chahal 47 *(64b, 2x4, 2x6)*, David Willey c sub (Shreyas) b Bumrah 41 *(49b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Craig Overton (not out) 10 *(18b)*, Brydon Carse lbw b Prasidh 2 *(4b)*, Reece Topley b Bumrah 3 *(7b)*; Extras (lb-4, w-8, nb-1): 13; Total (in 49 overs): 246.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-41 (Roy, 8.5 overs), 2-72 (Bairstow, 14.4), 3-82 (Root, 17.4), 4-87 (Buttler, 18.4), 5-102 (Stokes, 21.3), 6-148 (Livingstone, 28.6), 7-210 (Moeen, 41.6), 8-237 (Willey, 46.6), 9-240 (Carse, 47.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Shami 10-0-48-1, Bumrah 10-1-49-2, Hardik 6-0-28-2, Prasidh 8-0-53-1, Chahal 10-0-47-4, Jadeja 5-0-17-0

INDIA

Rohit Sharma lbw b Topley 0 *(10b)*, Shikhar Dhawan c Buttler b Topley 9 *(26b, 1x4)*, Virat Kohli c Buttler b Willey 16 *(25b, 3x4)*, Rishabh Pant c sub (Salt) b Carse 0 *(5b)*, Suryakumar Yadav b Topley 27 *(29b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c Livingstone b Moeen 29 *(44b, 2x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja b Livingstone 29 *(44b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Mohd. Shami c Stokes b Topley 23 *(28b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Jasprit Bumrah (not out) 2 *(6b)*, Yuzvendra Chahal b Topley 3 *(13b)*, Prasidh Krishna c Buttler b Topley 0 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-7, w-1): 8; Total (in 38.5 overs): 146.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-4 (Rohit, 2.4), 2-27 (Dhawan, 8.5), 3-29 (Pant, 10.2), 4-31 (Kohli, 11.2), 5-73 (Suryakumar, 20.2), 6-101 (Hardik, 27.1), 7-140 (Shami, 34.6), 8-140 (Jadeja, 35.1), 9-145 (Chahal, 38.2).

ENGLAND BOWLING

Topley 9.5-2-24-6, Willey 9-2-27-1, Carse 7-0-32-1, Overton 7-0-22-0, Moeen 4-0-30-1, Livingstone 2-1-4-1.

Toss: India; **MoM:** Topley

England won by 100 runs to level the series 1-1.

Third and final ODI: July 17, Manchester, 3.30 p.m. IST.

Ashwin and Rahul return

Kuldeep in too; Kohli, Bumrah rested

WI T20I SERIES

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

R. Ashwin, K.L. Rahul and Kuldeep Yadav have been recalled while Jasprit Bumrah, Virat Kohli and Yuzvendra Chahal have been rested for India's five-match T20I series versus the West Indies, to be played in July-August. Ashwin, the off-spinner, previously featured in a T20I last November and is likely to be tried out in the PowerPlays with an eye on the T20 World Cup to be played in Australia from October.

Subject to fitness

Rahul and Kuldeep, however, will have to clear a fitness test, having recovered from injuries and ailments over the last couple of months.

Captain Rohit Sharma, wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant and key pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar – who have been rested for the three ODI in the West Indies starting July 22 – will return to the side for the T20Is.

However, the selectors, in consultation with the team management, have opted to rest Kohli, Bumrah and Chahal for the T20Is.

While the BCCI communication on Thursday had no explanation for the trio's omission, *The Hindu* understands that the decision to rest them is with an eye on trying out various combinations in the lead-up to the T20 World Cup.

Bumrah and Chahal are assured of a place in the T20 World Cup side, while the selectors are confident that Kohli will regain his lost touch during the break.

Considering the lack of experience in Australia among India's T20 specialist batters, the selectors and the team management are willing to give Kohli a longer rope to get back into the run-scoring mode. As a result, it will be surprising if Kohli is not recalled into the side for the Asia Cup, scheduled to start in Sri Lanka towards the end of August.

Pace-bowling allrounder Deepak Chahar was not considered for selection since he is yet to recover from injury.

The squad: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Ishan Kishan, K.L. Rahul, Suryakumar Yadav, Deepak Hooda, Shreyas Iyer, Dinesh Karthik, Rishabh Pant, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, R. Ashwin, Ravi Bishnoi, Kuldeep Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Avesh Khan, Harshal Patel and Arshdeep Singh.

The itinerary: July 29 (Trinidad), August 1 (St. Kitts), Aug. 2 (St. Kitts), Aug. 6 (Lauderhill, Florida), and Aug. 7 (Lauderhill, Florida).

R. Ashwin. • AP

K.L. Rahul. • PTI

Young plays a flawless first round to go into the lead

McIlroy lives up to his billing to lie in second place, two strokes adrift; Smith in third spot

BRITISH OPEN

REUTERS
ST. ANDREWS

PGA Tour rookie Cameron Young shot a bogey-free, 8-under-par 64 on Thursday to establish the early lead at The 150th Open in St. Andrews in Scotland.

Rory McIlroy polished off a 66 to take sole possession of second at the midway point of the first round. Australia's Cameron Smith was a further stroke back.

Behind them was a group with 68 that included World No.1 and Augusta Masters winner Scottie Scheffler, Barclay Brown, Lee Westwood, Kurt Kitayama, Brad Kennedy and Viktor Hovland.

Smooth start: Young produced a bogey-free 8-under-par 64 on Thursday. • GETTY IMAGES

Eight birdies

Seven of Young's eight birdies came over the first 12 holes. One of the longest drivers on the PGA Tour, the Americasn drove over the green at the short par-4 ninth, 12th and 18th holes, getting up and down for birdie each time.

In Young's debut at The Open, he came up one shot shy of tying the lowest first-round score in championship history. The 25-year-old has yet to win as a professional, but he has five top-three finishes on the season, including a tie for third at the PGA Championship in May.

"We worked our way around the golf course really well," said Young. "I don't think that I played a perfect round of golf. I just kind of scored really well."

McIlroy, the four-time Major winner and No. 2 player in the world, made three straight birdies at the fifth through seventh holes. He rebounded from a bogey at No. 13 with a birdie at the par-5 14th. At the 18th, he left an 84-foot eagle putt inches to the right of the cup for his final birdie.

Smith, winner of The Players Championship in March, drained a right-to-left, 55-foot birdie putt at the par-4 second to jump-start his round.

Ernie Els, 52, used four birdies between the eighth and 12th holes to get to 5 under. But after bogeying No. 16, his drive at No. 17, the Road Hole, found the Old Course Hotel out of bounds.

The two-time Open champion from South Africa made double bogey and wrapped up a 2-under 70.

Defending champion Collin Morikawa opened with an even-par 72, tied with a group that also included Phil Mickelson (three birdies, three bogeys).

Erigaisi faces Aronian in quarterfinals

CHESS

SPORTS BUREAU

Arjun Erigaisi will take on Levon Aronian in the quarterfinals of the FTX Road to Miami online rapid chess tournament after finishing second in the league stage on Wednesday.

Leading the table following the 14th and penultimate round, Erigaisi drew the final round with Norway's Aryan Tari after Samuel Sevian defeated Shakhriyar Mamedyarov.

Sevian on top

These results gave Sevian the top spot at 32 points and Erigaisi finished second with 31. Jan-Krzysztof Duda (28), Richard Rapport (27), Jeffery Xiong, Anish Giri (24 each), Levon Aronian (22) and Wei Yi (19) also made it to the quarterfinals.

The finalists will get to play in the eight-player $310,000 FTX Crypto Cup Major in Miami next month.

On the final day of the league, Erigaisi drew with Giri, defeated Xiong and proved equal to Tari. As a result, he ended up with nine wins, four draws, two losses and $7,750. His clash with Aronian will be a repeat of the Goldmoney Asian Rapid quarterfinals last year.

Aronian prevailed in the blitz tie-breaker and went on to win the title.

"I believe before the pandemic I was somewhat underrated and I think I deserved to be 2600 then, but it didn't happen. So I was not surprised that I had 2600, but the rise after that was pretty good, and Magnus (Carlsen) mentioning that I can hit 2700 soon definitely boosted my confidence."

Quarterfinal line-up: Sevian-Wei Yi; Arjun-Aronian; Duda-Giri and Rapport-Xiong.

Pidcock wins 12th stage

REUTERS
L'ALPE D'HUEZ

Tom Pidcock added an iconic Tour de France stage win to his impressive CV when he claimed victory at L'Alpe d'Huez at the end of a long solo ascent on Thursday.

The cyclocross world champion and Olympic gold medallist in cross country mountain biking attacked from the day's breakaway with more than 10km left in the final climb, a 13.8-km effort at 8.1% and never looked back. "It's one of the best experiences in my life," said the Tour debutant.

South African Louis Meintjes was second and Britain's four-time champion Chris Froome took third place.

Dane Jonas Vingegaard retained the overall leader's yellow jersey after resisting a couple of attacks from defending champion Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia.

RIL and AFI enter into long-term partnership

SPORTS BUREAU

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) took their partnership a step further and announced a long-term association to help the sport become bigger and better.

The goal

The partnership aims to discover, nurture and develop Indian athletes from across the country and provide them with world-class facilities, coaching, sports science and sports medicine support through Reliance centres.

The partnership will have a special focus on female athletes with an aim to bridge the gender divide and enable them to achieve their dreams. And as AFI's principal partner, the Reliance brand will appear across the national team's jerseys and training kits at key national, international competitions and training camps.

Special focus on girls

"We are delighted to expand Reliance Foundation's partnership with the AFI. Athletics is one of the most popular disciplines in global sport and this association aims to accelerate the growth of Indian athletics by providing opportunities and world-class facilities to our young talent, with a special focus on girls," said Nita M. Ambani, International Olympic Committee member, and Director, RIL.

'Olympic Movement'

"This partnership is also an important step towards our dream of strengthening the Olympic Movement in India."

Adille Sumariwalla, the AFI president, said, "we have seen our athletics contingent grow at international events, and with a committed partner in Reliance Industries, we are sure that soon we will see an increase in participation and international success across multiple disciplines."

This could be our best World Championships: Anju

She feels that Neeraj could win gold and Sreeshankar's chances look bright

ATHLETICS

STAN RAYAN
KOCHI

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra's Olympic gold in Tokyo appears to have inspired everybody. And Anju Bobby George feels that the World Athletics Championships, which begin in Oregon (USA) on Friday, could be India's best ever.

"If you look at this year's performance statistics, for the first time we have multiple medal hopes," said Anju, the country's lone World Championships medallist, in a chat with *The Hindu* on Thursday evening.

"I think Neeraj will win the gold, and he looks capable of crossing 90m. Being an Olympic champion, there will be pressure on him but I think he can handle it beautifully.

"And when you look at performances in the world this year, (long jumper) Sreeshankar has a bright chance too."

Anju, who won the long jump bronze at the 2003 Paris Worlds, feels that it is a strange year in athletics with the form of many of the world's best, in events like the long jump, slipping in recent competitions.

Strange year

"We have not had a scenario like this before, it's strange. Probably, they have not had enough competition or perhaps they could not train properly because of COVID," said Anju, also the senior vice-president of the Athletics Federation of India.

"That is why making predictions is difficult this time. Also, when it comes to the Worlds, we can only say after the qualifying round. Any big jumper can crash in the first round, once they cross that predicting will be easier."

Vote of confidence: Anju George, right, feels that Neeraj has a very good chance of making the 90m mark. • FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

For the first time, India will have three men in long jump and triple jump, and Anju feels that two long jumpers could make the final.

"In triple jump, the competitions were less and they have not had big-meet exposure like an international Grand Prix, so we cannot analyse the situation properly."

Tough for Sable

Regarding Avinash Sable, she felt the 3000m steeple chase is a tough one.

"Sable is in very good shape, but his event is very tough.

"Still, when the going gets tough, he performs better. I think he has a good chance to get into the top six. And Annu Rani (javelin throw) can come into the top eight.

"In earlier years, we used to expect just one or two athletes to enter the final, but this time five or six look capable of doing that," said Anju

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: Singapore Open, Sports 18-1 & Voot Select, 10.30 a.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Voot Select, 7.15 p.m.
Golf: The Open Championships, Eurosport (SD & HD) & Discovery Plus, 11 a.m. & 9.30 p.m. onwards
World Athletics Championships: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), Sony LIV, & World Athletics YouTube & Facebook channels, 5.30 a.m. onwards (Saturday).

IN BRIEF

Police open probe into Farah revelations

LONDON

London's Metropolitan Police Service has opened an investigation into four-time Olympic champion Mo Farah's revelation that he was trafficked into the U.K. as a child using fake travel documents. "Specialist officers have opened an investigation and are currently assessing available information," said a Police statement. AP

Pranavi stays on top

BENGALURU

Overnight leader Pranavi Urs stayed on top of the leaderboard at the end of the second round of the ninth leg of the Hero Women's Pro Golf Tour, at Bangalore Golf Club here on Thursday.
The scores (top five): 138: Pranavi Urs (67, 71); **141:** Seher Atwal (68, 73); **143:** Hitaashee Bakshi (73, 70); **146:** Nayanika Sanga (77, 69); **147:** Sneha Singh (72, 75).

Harbhajan to play in Legends League

NEW DELHI

Former India off-spinner Harbhajan Singh will be back for the second season of the Legends League Cricket (LLC) in September. Harbhajan will join Virender Sehwag, Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, Muttiah Muralitharan and Brett Lee, among others. PTI

India looks to do better at CWG

We wanted to end our World Cup campaign on a positive note, says Navneet

HOCKEY

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
TERRASSA (SPAIN)

The FIH World Cup did not go as expected for the Indian women's hockey team, but striker Navneet Kaur on Thursday said the side will look to better its performance at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. India finished ninth in the World Cup.

The team began the campaign with a 1-1 draw against England. In its next match, it was held to a 1-1 draw by China. India's final group stage match ended in a 3-4 defeat to New Zealand.

India had a chance to go to the quarterfinals despite finishing third in the group stage. However, it missed out on the chance to finish in the top 8 after a loss to Spain.

Speaking about the loss to Spain, Navneet said: "When we lost the match against Spain, we were utterly disappointed but knew we had to quickly put that match behind us and focus on the upcoming games against Canada and Japan. "The only thing we wanted was to register good wins against these two teams and finish our World Cup campaign on a positive note," she said.

In its 9th-16th place game, India defeated Canada 2-3 via shootout after the game was tied at 1-1 at the end of regulation time.

Following that, India defeated Japan 3-1 in the 9th-12th place match on Wednesday night to finish ninth in the final standings. "I feel we could have done even better against Canada and not let the match go into a shootout. But we missed many chances in the circle. Against Japan, it was important we improvised our chances and we pushed them from the word go," Navneet further said.

Back to work: India, which finished ninth in the World Cup, will kick off its CWG campaign on July 29 • FILE PHOTO

ATK Mohun Bagan gets home advantage

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA

ATK Mohun Bagan will enjoy home advantage in the inter-zonal semifinals of the AFC Cup, which will be played at the Salt Lake Stadium here on September 7.

The continental body announced the fixtures of the knockout stage after conducting the draws at Kuala Lumpur, on Wednesday.

ATK Mohun Bagan, which progressed to the semifinals by winning the group league games in May, will take on the ASEAN champion to find a place in the inter-zonal final.

Bhambri-Myneni duo loses in quarterfinals

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Yyuki Bhambri and Saketh Myneni were beaten 3-6, 7-6(6), [11-9] by Arthur Fils and Luca Van Asssche of France in the doubles quarterfinals of the €45,730 Challenger tennis tournament in the Netherlands on Thursday. In the $25,000 ITF women's event in Nur Sultan, Ankita Raina lost in the second round.

Other results: €90,280 Challenger, Iasi, Romania: First round: Petros Tsitsipas (Gre) & Arjun Kadhe bt Grigoriy Lomakin (Kaz) & Oleg Prihodko (Ukr) 6-3, 3-6, [10-7].
$53,120 Challenger, Rome, USA: First round: Sriram Balaji & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Toshihide Matsui & Kaito Uesugi (Jpn) 4-6, 6-3, [10-7].
$25,000 ITF, Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan: Men: Second round: Prajnesh Gunneswaran bt Yanki Erel (Tur) 6-2, 6-4. **Women: Second round:** Mariam Bolkvadze (Geo) bt Ankita Raina 6-1, 6-3.
Doubles: Quarterfinals: Momoko Kobori (Jpn) & Ankita Raina bt Gozal Ainitdinova (Kaz) & Anna Kubareva 1-6, 6-1, [10-5].
$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: Second round: Manish Sureshkumar bt Niki Poonacha 6-1, 6-4. **Women: First round:** Priska Madelyn Nugroho (Ina) & Vaidehi Chaudhari bt Back Dayeon & Jeong BoYoung (Kor) 6-0, 6-3.
$15,000 ITF women, Lakewood, USA: First round: Shatoo Mohamad (USA) bt Prathyusha Rachapudi 6-3, 6-4.

BAI moves to disaffiliate KBA

Cites non-compliance towards amending Constitution

BADMINTON

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) has moved to disaffiliate the Karnataka Badminton Association (KBA) citing KBA's non-compliance towards amending its Constitution and bringing it in line with BAI bylaws.

The bone of contention is the constitution of the KBA Executive Committee, which has 10 life members and nine district representatives in a 19-member Executive Committee, thereby reducing the districts to a minority.

Back in February, Shalini Rajneesh, Additional Chief Secretary, Youth Empowerment and Sports, Karnataka, had written to the Union Sports Ministry flagging this as an issue, and that it was a violation of clause 3.10 of the Sports Code which asks for at least 50% of the district associations to be affiliated to the state federation, which is in turn affiliated to the national body.

While it is unclear if more than 50% representation is to be reflected in the decision-making committees as well, BAI, back in March, had asked the KBA to bring its Constitution in line and given it four months' time to do so. The KBA, on its part, sought to create a new body named Karnataka Badminton Association-Badminton Management Committee that would deal exclusively with badminton-related activities and implement the laws as desired. But this has not found favour with the BAI.

"We have a majority of the 31 districts of Karnataka affiliated. So there is no violation," said P. Rajesh Reddy, Secretary, KBA. "Also, KBA's is a unique system. We are a members-run body and members fund this organisation. We have to protect their interests as well.

"We have both badminton, and non-badminton activities dealing with clubhouse, etc. So we sought to separate the two and create KBA – Badminton Management Committee just for badminton.

"This has proper district representation as desired. In fact, it is close to 80%. It's not a parallel body but a body within a body. But BAI didn't approve of it and have taken this arbitrary decision, without even giving us a show-cause notice."

KBA's next course of action will be decided on Friday following a meeting of its Executive Committee. Calls to Sanjay Mishra, General Secretary, BAI went unanswered.

Reconsider GST for horse racing: TAI

Appeals to the GoM citing adverse impact on the sport

RACING

VINAYAK M. ZODGE
PUNE

Zavaray S. Poonawalla, chairman, GST Cell and council member, Turf Authorities of India (TAI), along with his team and senior counsel Aryama Sundaram made a presentation addressing the adverse impact of GST on horse racing to the Group of Ministers (GoM) on Tuesday.

TAI, the apex body for horse racing in the country, cited Supreme Court and High Court judgments that establish the fact that GST on prize money does not fall in the ambit of actionable claim as far as horse racing is concerned.

Since its regularisation in 2017, the GST Act on actionable claims has raised ambiguity and concern for affected industries. The varied interpretation and perceptions of the actionable claim clause in the Act imply shortcomings which have triggered deliberations and a need for correction.

Inconclusive

It has been almost three months since the GoM was formed to study the intricacies of GST application on horse racing and in spite of several meetings, the matter remains inconclusive.

"All bets placed at race courses are through an electronic foolproof system called Totalizator. A small fixed percentage of the bet amount is charged as a service fee purely for organising the event of horse racing and for equestrian welfare including the workforce involved.

"It is the only amount retained by the club as commission and the club in no way is a part of the bet whatsoever. Race clubs are non-profit organisations governed by set guidelines and managed by honorary committee members" explained Mr. Poonawalla.

"The horse racing industry in India has witnessed a sharp decline in its operations since the evolution of GST and is now on the verge of closedown.

" It is a great misfortune for our country and horse lovers that one of the oldest sports in the world is losing its glory while it continues to thrive in other developed countries which unlike India have no history of horse racing.

"We have made every effort backed with facts and credentials to substantiate our appeal on GST reform and we humbly hope that justice will prevail and the GST Council will accede to our appeal on basis of merit," said Mr. Poonawalla.